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Stronger GCC-ACC ties urged

BAHRAIN (R) — Former Arab League Secretary-General Mahmoud Riad called for stronger security links between two Arab groups in remarks published Sunday. He said the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) grouping Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq should coordinate more closely. "Despite their (the GCC states) wealth they are short of manpower capable of facing any foreign aggression," the Bahrain daily Akhbar Al Khaleej quoted Riad as saying. "For this reason, security cooperation between GCC and ACC states has to come first in future," he said. The GCC groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates in an economic and political alliance formed in 1981. The ACC was formed in February 1989. Riad backed Kuwait's decision last month to withdraw from the 13-state Council for Arab Economic Unity due to what it termed poor performance caused by lack of financial support from some members. "Kuwait has made the right decision," he said.

Inmates riot in British prison

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — About 300 inmates rioted at an overcrowded Victorian prison Sunday, occupying rooftops, smashing windows and setting fires inside. Thirty-two guards and an unknown number of inmates were injured. Hundreds of riot police surrounded the medium-security Strangeways prison. A police helicopter hovered overhead as black smoke billowed from two cellblocks. A dozen firefighters battled a blaze in the H block under police protection. Scores of police vans lined side streets around the prison, a 1.5 milometres from the Manchester city centre in central England. The Home Office, responsible for prisons and law enforcement, said the perimeter of the prison was secure. Greater Manchester police refused to comment on first reports that some prison officers had been taken hostage. A police spokeswoman also was unable to confirm reports of fatalities. A Home Office statement said the uprising began in the prison chapel Sunday morning, when 300 inmates attacked staff members.

Non-diplomats to be recalled in bid to cut spending

AMMAN (J.T.) — All Jordanian counsellors and attaches working at Jordanian embassies — except members of the diplomatic corps — will be recalled to Amman as of beginning of July, in a drive designed to curtail government spending and consequently to cut the budget deficit, informed sources said. The decision covers counsellors and cultural, labour, information, press, commercial and tourist attaches in addition to correspondents of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the sources said. The Cabinet has requested the various ministries to furnish it with names of such officials and dates of their appointment or transfer to such positions. The government decision will be implemented irrespective of the time each one has spent in the present post.

Arab Bank pays JD6m in income tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Bank paid in January JD 6 million to the Income Tax Department on account of the bank's income tax dues for the year 1989, according to Arab Bank sources. The amount is due on interest collected by the bank's various branches throughout the Kingdom, the sources said.

U.N. 'clears Hocke of charges'

GENEVA (AP) — Jean-Pierre Hocke, the former U.N. high commissioner for refugees who resigned last November amid allegations he misused funds, has been cleared by a special U.N. investigation, Swiss newspapers said Sunday. The reports, citing "informed sources," said a study by experts appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar showed that Hocke's management of a special educational account was "regular and legitimate." The results of the investigation have not yet been officially published. U.N. spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment in Geneva, and a spokesman in New York said he could not confirm or deny the report. Perez de Cuellar was travelling Sunday and could not be reached for comment.

Libya protests Ethiopian expulsions

TUNIS (R) — Libya protested to Ethiopia Sunday over the expulsion of two Libyan diplomats based in Addis Ababa, the official Libyan news agency JANA said. Diplomatic sources in the Ethiopian capital linked the expulsions Saturday with a bomb explosion on Friday in a lavatory of the Addis Ababa Hilton, where Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia Meyer Joffe resides. The bomb caused little damage and no injuries. The Libyan people's bureau for foreign liaison (foreign ministry) summoned the Ethiopian charge d'affaires in Tripoli Sunday, told him the expulsions were unjustifiable and asked him for an official explanation, JANA said.

Andreotti in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived Sunday for a two-day official visit to Cyprus. He was welcomed by Cyprus President George Vassiliou. Andreotti was accompanied by five senators and two parliamentary deputies who will attend the week-long Inter-Parliamentary Union conference which opens in Nicosia Monday.

U.S. navy jet goes down

GAETA, Italy (AP) — A U.S. navy jet crashed in the western Mediterranean during routine operations but the pilot was quickly rescued, a Sixth Fleet spokesman said Sunday. The F-18 Hornet, operating from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, was flying about 28 miles from the aircraft carrier when it went down Saturday afternoon, said Jim Fallin. An SH-3 Sea King helicopter operating in the area recovered the pilot within 10 minutes and returned to the carrier, Fallin said. The cause of the accident was under investigation.

Kremlin sends tanks, troops to Lithuania

MOSCOW (R) — Tanks ground through Lithuania's capital Sunday after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev issued his strongest warning yet to the rebel republic.

A column of Soviet tanks rolled through Vilnius from the railway station to a base on the northern side of the capital early Sunday, a spokesman for the Lithuanian parliament said.

"They were light paratrooper tanks. There were enough to form a column," the spokesman said.

Troops also built a helicopter pad and a communications base with satellite dishes near the airport, he said.

Gorbachev, battling to contain separatism in several Soviet republics, had earlier warned the Lithuanians of "grave consequences" unless the republic's parliament repealed its March 11 declaration of independence.

U.S. President George Bush and other Western leaders have repeatedly called on Moscow to avoid using force towards the Baltic republics, annexed by dictator Josef Stalin in 1940.

Leaders of Lithuania's Russian minority renewed appeals to Gorbachev to dismiss the republic's government.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis denounced Gorbachev's words as "harsh and vindictive." The republic's parliament, or supreme Soviet, was due to discuss a response Monday.

A hint of compromise came from the Lithuanian side when an official at the parliament's information office said the declaration might be re-worded Monday.

But another Landsbergis aide was doubtful. "We only have one card in our hand and that is our declaration of independence. If we give that up, we will have nothing."

In Moscow, Valery Ivanov, co-president of Lithuania's pro-Moscow Yedinstov (Unity) movement, told Reuters: "I think they will do something. Otherwise they will not get anywhere, they are going up a blind alley."

Ivanov addressed a rally of fewer than 150 people in the Soviet capital urging Gorbachev to dismiss the Lithuanian parliament and call fresh elections.

He said the Feb. 24 polls which elected Lithuania's pro-independence government were riddled with irregularities and the media was giving a false picture.

The independence movement Sajudis won two-thirds of the seats in the 141-seat parliament. Lithuanians make up 80 per cent of the population, Russian immigrants nine per cent and Poles, Byelorussians and Ukrainians the remainder.

Nationalists in neighbouring Latvia appealed to Western powers Sunday to use diplomatic and economic pressure on Moscow to negotiate with the Lithuanians.

"We appeal to you not to leave the Baltic states at the mercy of the totalitarian superpower, the USSR, which has never abandoned any territory which it has occupied," the Latvian Popular Front, which won a majority in its parliament, said.

"We believe and hope that support for Gorbachev by the governments of the democratic states does not mean the betrayal of the Baltic states in 1990," it said.

Some Western officials say that, while their governments favour Lithuanian independence, they see support for Gorbachev and his reforms as a higher priority.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainians defied an official ban on Saturday to hold rallies in Kiev and other cities in support of Lithuanian independence, the nationalist movement Rukh said.

Police dispersed the demonstrators in Donetsk, Vinnitsa and Chernovtsy, it said. There were no immediate reports of any serious violence.

Nationalists in Georgia and Byelorussia have also come out in support of the Lithuanians, as have radicals in Russia.

Ivanov said more than 1,000 of his Yedinstvo supporters had attended a meeting in his home town, Kaunas, Saturday.

Yedinstvo's offices in Vilnius had been attacked Friday night, he said. Windows were broken and the Soviet flag torn down, but the vandals had failed to break down the door.

He also said that many small enterprises in Lithuania were facing supply shortages and a wave of unemployment threatened.

In a reference to Landsbergis' calling as a professor of music, he added: "Sajudis' policy is not serious. All we are getting is variations on a theme."

LAND DAY PROTESTS: An Israeli policeman beats up a Palestinian demonstrator and protesters burn tyres and throw stones at Israeli soldiers during Friday's anniversary of Land Day in Palestine.

Bahrain, Egypt criticise U.S. Senate resolution

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Bahrain and Egypt, which have close ties with the United States, have criticised a U.S. Senate resolution recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

A statement issued after the Bahraini cabinet's weekly session called on all states to condemn the Senate move "in the interests of world peace and security and to preserve the rights of the Palestinian Arab people which the resolution has ignored."

In Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry voiced concern over the U.S. Senate resolution and said: "Solving the Middle East problem, including the status of Jerusalem, will not be possible by taking decisions which call for recognising situations that lack legal basis."

"It is an obstacle that does not help solve the problem but rather complicates it added.

The Foreign Ministry said Egypt was following the issue with great concern.

The U.S. Senate passed a non-binding resolution last week urging Washington to acknowledge that Jerusalem "is and should remain the capital of the state of Israel."

The Egyptian statement noted that Arab Jerusalem was "an integral part of the West Bank which Israel has occupied since 1967 and where Palestinians have legitimate and historical rights that cannot be forgotten."

It also said any attempt to change "the status of (Arab) Jerusalem unilaterally goes against the basic principles of international law and United Nations resolutions on the Middle East problems."

The U.S. resolution, which expresses the opinion of the Senate and is not binding on the U.S. government, ran counter to the policies of U.S. administrations, including that of President George Bush.

They have refused to accept Israel's "annexation" of the city and say Jerusalem's future should be the subject of Arab-Israeli negotiation. Bush has reaffirmed that policy.

The resolution "contravenes all international laws and norms and violates United Nations resolutions which prevent and occupying power from changing status of the territories it holds," the Bahraini cabinet statement said.

The prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa said: "It was adopted at a time that the world is moving towards peaceful solutions of international problems and it can pose a major impediment to the peace-making efforts in the region."

He said that the resolution will "provoke Arab and Islamic feelings."

Arab governments and the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Countries have condemned the Senate resolution.

Mandela to meet de Klerk on violence

MOTHERWELL, South Africa (Agencies) — Nelson Mandela said Sunday he would meet with President F.W. de Klerk alone informally this week to discuss the violence raging across the country.

Mandela said he would not lead an African National Congress (ANC) delegation in formal talks.

The ANC leader did not specify when he would meet de Klerk, but said it would be after his trip to Natal province, where five years of black faction fighting has intensified in the past week, causing scores of deaths

Mandela told a news conference he intended to fly to Durban on Monday to visit people affected by the recent upsurge in violence.

He gave no details on the meeting with de Klerk, but indicated he was answering a personal invitation from the president. Last week Mandela, the ANC deputy president, was persuaded by other ANC leaders to cancel two planned meetings seen as steps towards ending nationwide violence.

Black residents cheered Sunday when trucks from the whiteled South African army moved into a Natal village to stop gang warfare.

But in another village people said police had shot dead two men without reason.

Reuter photographer Ulli Michel said hundreds of blacks were engaged in a pitched battle with shotguns and knives in Edendale when eight army trucks rolled into the valley near Natal's provincial capital Pietermaritzburg.

Supporters of one side cheered and raised their fists to salute the heavily-armed soldiers as their opponents, who had flooded in from an adjoining valley, fled.

It was not clear how many people had been injured in the battle. Several houses had been set alight and groups of armed men continued to fire wildly in the area.

The soldiers, who took no action against the combatants, continued to patrol the valley, one of the hardest hit in battles between Zulus who support the ANC-allied United Democratic Front and those who stand by the traditional Zulu Inkatha movement.

Iraqi official denies U.S. triggers for nuclear bombs

NEW YORK (R) — Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoon denied Sunday that his government was producing nuclear weapons and said Baghdad intended to use U.S.-made detonators confiscated in Britain for laser technology.

"My government was not involved in getting any detonators the way they are suggesting," Hamdoon told the CBS television network in reference to a U.S. indictment that charged five people and two British companies with smuggling U.S.-manufactured nuclear triggers to Iraq.

"Iraq was interested in getting the high-velocity rubber high-voltage capacitors which have many applications in laser and other industrial fields," he said.

"We are not involved in any nuclear weapon discussion. My government's position is that Iraq has neither the capability nor the wish to produce nuclear weapons."

He said Iraq was interested in a comprehensive arms treaty in the Middle East that would cover long-range missiles and nuclear weapons.

"But we don't like to be dealt with selectively on this or that weapon because we think all mass destruction weapons should be eliminated," he said.

Former Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said Washington should look "very carefully" at Iraq's interest in a comprehensive arms agreement.

Iraq's Osiraq nuclear reactor was destroyed in a 1981 Israeli air raid. Hamdoon warned Iraq would retaliate against any such recurring attack.

Armed Forces launch car rebuilding project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Armed Forces maintenance corps has embarked on a pilot project to rebuild Volkswagen cars at its central workshops in Amman in a move to reduce new purchase of new vehicles and spare parts.

The director of the central workshops told the Jordan Times that the project was initiated after a thorough study proved the feasibility of rebuilding Volkswagen cars using parts from written-off vehicles to build new ones.

The project is designed for implementation at two stages of 50 vehicles each in addition to Toyota pick-up trucks and buses, he said.

The cost of rebuilding the cars represents only 23 per cent of the cost price of the vehicles, and the rebuilt cars can serve for 10 years, he said. The total cost involved for rebuilding 50 vehicles will be approximately JD 192,500 excluding spare parts, the director said.

He said the workshop was ready to train engineers from the public sector and polytechnic students on rebuilding vehicles.

The assistant director of the workshops said the project involved local expertise and that two thirds of the parts needed for the rebuilding process were being provided by the workshops with the rest bought from the local markets.

Guns silent in 15th Aoun-Geagea truce

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A ceasefire stilled the heavy guns in the latest round of fighting for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave Sunday, allowing thousands of civilians to flee the embattled region.

Police said an uneasy calm reigned over the major warfronts in rain-drenched east Beirut and the fog-shrouded highlands of the Kesrouan province in the Christian hinterland northeast of the capital.

"A few minor sniping incidents marred the new truce, which is allowing rescue workers to remove bodies and civilians to flee. The truce seems to be holding, at least momentarily," said a police spokesman.

The latest round of full-scale fighting broke out at dawn Friday, pitting rebel General Michel Aoun's 19,000 army troops against militia warlord Samir Geagea's 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces (LF).

An ultimatum given Aoun by leaders of Lebanon's Maronite Christian church to end the war and submit to internationally backed President Elias Hrawi was extended Sunday for more talks, political sources said.

The ultimatum was sent by Maronite notables summoned on Thursday by their patriarch, Nasrallah Butros Sfeir. Aoun did not attend but Geagea did.

Police said 63 people were killed and 133 wounded in the two days of fighting, using artillery, tanks and multi-barrelled rocket launchers, that shattered a March 3 ceasefire.

Many villages have been virtually wiped out by shellfire and large sections of several posh mountain resort towns were gutted, the spokesman said, "yet neither side has gained a single inch of territory."

Aoun's army has failed to break through Lebanese Forces defences in Kesrouan or east Beirut's Ashrafiyeh and Karantina districts, which left Geagea in full control of two thirds of the Christian enclave.

Aoun and his troops remained squeezed in the Metn province, with no airport or harbour to bring in arms supplies. Hostile Syrian troops ring all overland inlets to his territory.

"The showdown remains inconclusive on the battleground, but Geagea is rapidly emerging as the political victor," said a long-time Lebanon analyst, who requested anonymity.

The latest round put the overall casualties at 839 dead and 2,289 injured since Jan. 30, when Aoun moved against Geagea to stamp out the main challenge to his authority in the 800-square-kilometre enclave.

A three-man mediation committee of neutral Christians backed by the Vatican negotiated the new truce, which went into effect at 2:30 a.m. (0300 GMT). It is the 15th in two months.

Egypt Sunday called on the warring groups to stop fighting and urged them to support Hrawi as the legitimate ruler of the country.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters that the intensified fighting had shocked the world.

"The warring parties are asked to immediately stop all violence and fighting," Abdul Meguid said.

April fool's day jokes

They sounded more of a wish than a joke, it is true. But those of you who believed that our mail will soon be home delivered, and that we will soon be talking to each other over Citizens Bands (CB) radios in our private cars, are in for a little disappointment. The Jordan Times' two front-page stories yesterday, "Mail at your doorstep — personal delivery in-the-offing" and "Walkie-talkies come to town; 5,000 subscribers expected," were our version of April fool's day joke(s).

Hopefully your disappointment will not last all year long though. There will have to be new developments in both fields in the next twelve months, and we hope to keep you posted on them whenever we can.

Likud unhappy over Peres' coalition tactics

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's ruling Likud Party has accused Labour Party leader Shimon Peres of acting "like a thief in the night" in his hunt for defectors to form a government backing peace talks with Palestinians.

To succeed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Peres needs the endorsement of only one legislator now supporting the Likud leader in the deadlocked parliament.

Support for the parties is split 60-60.

"The problem is to find the 61st to break this tie," Labour Party Chairman Micha Harish told reporters. "In my opinion there is a chance."

He said Labour hoped to woo a five-member Likud offshoot led by Economics Minister Yitzhak Modai, a hardliner disenchanted by Shamir's policies, would be an unlikely Labour ally.

"We've heard more than once before that Shimon Peres is presenting a government, forming a government and has a majority and afterwards we find it is totally unbased," Likud cabinet minister Ronni Milo told reporters.

"He is trying to build it on defectors, he is acting like a thief in the night... but it has no basis. Mr. Peres can't form a government."

Quoting Labour sources, two newspapers reported the party would give its former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, 68, a chance to form a coalition if Peres failed to win more Jewish religious parties to his cause.

"Labour may pick Rabin if Peres fails "headlined the Jerusalem Post. "Agitation in Labour to replace Peres with Rabin," said Al Hamishmar.

Only five of the 18 religious party legislators have sided with Labour, the rest with Likud. The religious parties are traditional kingmakers in Israeli politics.

Protest against rabbi

Thousands of Israelis Saturday attended a rally to protest against remarks by a leading ultra-orthodox rabbi who denounced the secular life-style of kibbutzim, Israel's communal agricultural settlements.

The speech by Rabbi Eliezer Schach has caused an uproar in Israel, with the secular left and right speaking out against what they consider attempts at religious coercion.

In his speech last Monday, Schach cast doubt on the Jewishness of kibbutzniks who are held in high esteem.

Arab Bank presents budget, final account

AMMAN — The Arab Bank Shareholders general assembly held its 60th meeting at the Arab Bank Building in Amman under the chairmanship of Board of Directors Chairman Abdul Majeed Shoman and in the presence of representatives of the comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and a group of the Arab Bank shareholders in various Arab countries.

The meeting discussed the general budget, the final account, the board of directors' report published on pages 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Abdul Majeed Shoman

Shamir plans 5 new Jewish settlements in occupied lands

TEL AVIV (AP) — Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has set in motion plans to quickly start five more Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, an aide said Sunday.

The action is bound to fuel tensions with the United States whose leaders have renewed warnings lately that the settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are an obstacle to peace.

Shamir, head of the right-wing Likud Bloc, acted as his political rival, Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, sped up efforts to form a new governing coalition without Likud by later this week.

President Chaim Herzog asked Peres to put together a new coalition after the Likud-Labour cabinet led by Shamir collapsed on March 15 in a parliamentary vote of no confidence. The vote was triggered by a dispute over Middle East peacemaking.

Yossi Ahimeir, the head of Shamir's bureau, said of the premier's plans for settlements:

"We are talking about completing the picture of eight settlements decided by our government, and there's no doubt that sooner or later they will be established."

Israel Radio said former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labour Party postponed construction of five of the settlements in response to American protests. The defence minister has final say on when settlements will be built.

Ahimeir noted that Shamir was now acting as defence minister, a post he took over after Rabin's resignation from the cabinet on March 13 during the crisis that led to the government collpase.

"If there were artificial delays until now, they will be removed," Ahimeir said, interviewed by telephone. Ahimeir stressed that the settlements were all authorised by a cabinet decision of more than a year ago.

Labour legislator Avraham Burg maintained that Shamir also wanted to confiscate additional land for settlements and enlarge the present Jewish enclaves around Hebron, where clashes have erupted between settlers and Palestinians.

Burg told the Associated Press that Shamir's plans were in line with the Likud philosophy of not giving up any land in the occupied territories, even in exchange for peace.

"Part of the plan is to kill the peace process," he said. "Shamir is still devoted to the greater land of Israel."

Since occupying the West Bank and Gaza during the 1967 Middle East war, Israel has built 143 settlements which are home to some 75,000 Jews. About 1.7 million Palestinians live in the occupied lands.

An additional 120,000 Israelis have been moved into a string of neighbourhoods built in the occupied Jerusalem where some 140,000 Palestinians live.

Three settlements have been opened since Shamir was reelected premier in November 1988. These are Ofarim and Tsoref inaugurated last May 10 in the West Bank and Kfar Darom, started about the same time in Gaza.

Five others, agreed on as a compromise between Shamir and Peres when they formed their joint government, have not yet been built, nor their names and sites published.

Ahimeir confirmed a radio report that Shamir has named Michael Dekel, a veteran Likud activist and former deputy defence minister, to be in charge of building the new settlements.

The radio said Dekel still needs permits from the military government in the occupied territories and the Justice Ministry, which controls land purchases. In the past, some settlements have been started by putting up fences and moving in mobile homes.

Peres, meanwhile, was seeking to break a 60-60 deadlock with Likud to win a majority coalition in the 120-member parliament, but attempting to enlist defectors from Likud, Israeli media reported.

By law Peres has about 10 additional days to complete his task and then can ask Herzog for an extension. This could give Herzog an opportunity to ask Shamir to form a government.

Israeli newspapers noted that Rabin, Labour's no. 2, could also be assigned to form a government if Peres fails.

Rabin is more popular with religious swing parties, largely because of his tough policies aimed at putting down the Palestinian uprising that has been carried out in the occupied territories for the past 27 months.

In Kuwait, the state provides

Ashraf Fouad
Reuters

KUWAIT — "I had a British girlfriend here who had a nose job absolutely free," says a foreign resident of the Gulf state of Kuwait.

"When I first arrived I could not make a call at the airport because the coin slot was blocked," says an Egyptian traveller. "I later found out local calls were free."

Outsiders are endlessly amazed by the sweeping range of benefits and services this northern Gulf state extends to its 700,000 citizens, 1.3 million non-Kuwaiti residents and even passing travellers.

Tourists or visiting businessmen can check in at any state hospital and receive free treatment, medication, even surgery.

"My mother-in-law is diabetic. Every day two nurses come to the house to give her an insulin injection for free," says a Jordanian who has worked in Kuwait more than 20 years.

Another expatriate chimes in: "It's even better if you are a Kuwaiti."

Some of Kuwait's neighbours had to reduce social benefits when oil prices crashed in the mid-1980s. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, tried to impose taxes in 1988 but scrapped the plan after expatriates threatened to quit.

But the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, raised grants and loans this month for newly-wed Kuwaitis — part of an effort launched in 1986 to boost the proportion of Kuwaitis in the population to half by the turn of the century.

The couples now get a $3,400 grant and a $6,800 soft loan.

Kuwaitis, who enjoy one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, can also buy a piece of land at a token price and take a $186,000 soft loan to build a house, or apply for a government-built flat.

The Savings and Credit Bank last year paid Kuwaiti couples some 106 million dinars ($366 million) in marriage and housing loans and grants.

Measuring 17,818 square kilometres, Kuwait produces about 1.9 million barrels of oil per day and officials say reserves of about 92 billion barrels could last another 150 years.

In spite of agitation in recent months for the return of an elected parliament, Western diplomats say living standards funded by oil wealth keep most Kuwaitis politically content.

A Kuwaiti taxi driver says: the government gives us everything. I do not know why these people are making all this noise."

"They have too much at stake to rock the boat," a diplomat commented.

The state does not collect taxes, but the public authority for social security takes about five per cent of salaries from Kuwaiti employees and eight per cent from employers in return for a handsome pension.

Kuwait's only university and its public schools are free although grants for Kuwaitis studying abroad — mainly in the United States, Western Europe and Egypt — were reduced after the mid-1980s drop in oil prices.

Kuwait's generosity extends to other Arab and developing countries.

The Kuwait Fund for Economic and Social Development has made soft loans totalling $5.47 billion since 1962 to some 65 Arab, African and Asian states.

Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel rises in March

TEL AVIV (R) — Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel rose in March over the previous month, despite Arab militants' attempts to reduce the flow, Israeli officials told Reuters Sunday.

Citing Arab threats to strike at immigrant flights Israeli military censors last month imposed a blackout on details of arrivals but the New York Times reported last week that immigration was running at 1,500 per week.

The Israeli daily Davar said that Hungary's state airline Malev resumed carrying Soviet immigrants Friday on scheduled flights after a week-long ban sparked by threats from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine guerrilla group.

Arab gunmen in Lebanon Friday shot two Poles after Warsaw offered to help fly Soviet Jews to Israel.

There are no direct flights between Israel and the Soviet Union, which do not have diplomatic relations, and some 75 per cent of Soviet Jewish immigrants fly to Israel by way of Budapest.

Palestinians are alarmed at the influx of Jews from the Soviet Union, following Moscow's liberalisation of travel regulations and increased U.S. immigration restrictions.

Israeli military censors ordered deletions from this report.

They fear that many of the 100,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive this year could settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip although only a few hundred have so far done so.

After Jihad threatened to blow up its planes Malev halted both charter and scheduled flights carrying Soviet Jews departing for permanent residence in Israel.

Hungary announced Thursday it would resume the scheduled flights but not the charters.

Poland said Saturday its offer to take up the slack still stood, despite the wounding in Lebanon of a Polish trade official and his wife by Arab gunmen who later said the attack was a warning to Warsaw.

Finland said it had held talks with World Zionist Organisation Chairman Simcha Dimitz on the possibility of Jews living in the Soviet Baltic republics and in Leningrad flying to Israel via Finland.

Thousands of drought victims seek food in northern Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Thousands of skeletal drought victims, some with match-stick legs and protruding bellies of acute malnutrition, are begging for food in rebel-held areas of northern Ethiopia, according to a senior relief official.

Most of the more than one million drought victims in the rebel-held regions of Wollo and Tigray are already severely malnourished and need urgent assistance to survive, says famine relief coordinator Francis Stephanos.

"Thousands of skeletal people, some with protruding bellies and match-stick legs, have converged on the main highway northward from Korem (in Wollo near the border with Tigray)," he told Reuters this weekend.

"They are mostly elderly men and women and small children who have nothing to eat and who are stopping every passer-by to beg for food," he added.

His fears, evoking chilling memories of the devastating 1984-85 famine which killed at least one million Ethiopians, was based on a fact-finding mission of his church relief consortium, the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), which has just returned to Addis Ababa.

The JRP, grouping relief agencies connected to the Roman Catholic, Evangelical and Ethiopian Orthodox Churches, is trying to move food aid to rebel-controlled areas of northern Ethiopia, where the United Nations says up to 4.5 million people face starvation this year because of drought and war.

Francis said the famine situation appeared "very critical" around Maychew, the first town in Tigray province after crossing from Wollo, and looked worse in the northern part of Tigray.

The JRP began its scheme to take food aid into areas held by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on March 20, with trucks setting out from the Wollo provincial capital, Dessie, and crossing military lines some 35 kilometres to the north.

Daily truck convoys have so far only been taking food as far as rebel-held Kobo, 150 kilometres to the north.

The JRP hopes to move a total of 130,000 tonnes into the rebel-held northern regions by December.

Francis said there was now enough food stocked at Kobo for distribution to start shortly in selected towns further north. But the operation could not get under way in Tigray because road conditions were bad.

According to the JRP report, some bridges had been destroyed and part of the main road near Mekele, in central Tigray, had been washed away, making it hard for trucks to pass.

The JRP had sent a road maintenance team to the region to undertake quick repairs, Francis said.

Israeli arbitrary measures take toll on Palestinian universities

By Nicolas B. Tatro
Associated Press

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank — Stools are turned upside down on the work benches in the chemistry lab, and unopened sacks of books jam the entrance of the library at Bir Zeit University.

School has been out since Israeli troops shut all six Palestinian universities for security reasons shortly after the uprising against Israeli occupation began 27 months ago.

About half the 2,650 students enrolled in Bir Zeit are trying to fill the gap by attending so-called "underground classes," which are technically illegal although the army rarely enforces the ban.

Instruction is held in a variety of off-campus sites: A hotel, a villa under construction, a church, even the hallways of the Board of Regents Buildings here.

Risking arrest, librarians periodically sneak through the barbed-wire to retrieve books and magazines for students. Teachers also clandestinely bring select students to use the chemistry and physics labs.

Despite these efforts, attendance is sporadic and the makeshift education is well below normal academic standards. As a result, educators fear a whole generation of students may be lost.

"More than half the students can't make it to class on a regular basis," said Roger Heacock of the United States, who was teaching Latin American history to 11 students during a recent visit.

Classes, which meet once a week in an apartment building off campus, are often disrupted by army roadblocks and curfews or by Palestinian strikes and protests. The students' only materials are photocopies from a U.S. textbook.

But Heacock, 47, said the students were highly motivated, recalling one who arrived in class with mud up to his knes after walking two hours through fields to get around an army checkpoint.

He said upperclass students had developed good study habits, but that continued university closure could be a "real catastrophy" for younger students who lack familiarity with libraries and other formal facilities.

Naim Abul Hummous, director of the Palestinian Higher Education Council, said only about one-quarter of the 18,000 college or university students showed up for off-campus classes.

Those attending were taking an average of six credit hours per semester instead of 18, and it could take 10 years or more to get a degree.

The state of confusion was nowhere more apparent than in the Regents Buildings in Ramallah several kilometres from Bir Zeit's new campus, where a cluster of modern buildings sit empty, surrounded by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire.

In one hallway, three computer students hunched over screens, and a group of women students huddled over a health education paper. All the while, a steady stream of students flowed by en route to register for the fall semester of underground classes.

"Academic standards? What academic standards? How much is left? We tried to keep up but..." said Dr. Said Assaf, waving his arm at the confusion in a gesture of frustration.

The prolonged closure has brought strong international condemnation of Israel, including sanctions from the European Community on scientific cooperation.

Maj. Moshe Fogel, an army spokesman, defended the action, saying Bir Zeit and the other universities were shut because they became "the centres of unrest rather than centres of Learning."

"University administrators lost influence and were replaced by student councils controlled by PLO factions and Muslim fundamentalist groups... who managed to subvert the academic policies with violence, terror and force," he claimed.

In Heacock's class, three students raised their hands when asked if they had been arrested during the intifada. Heacock himself was accused of leading a protest march in 1987 and received a two-month suspended sentence and a $1,000 fine.

A total of 389 students and faculty have been detained during the uprising. Some 80 are still in prison. Many held without formal charges — and two teachers have been deported.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Sudanese leader in Uganda

ENTEBBE (R) — Sudanese head of state, Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, arrived Sunday for a two-day state visit to Uganda at the invitation of President Yoweri Museveni who gave him a red-carpet welcome. Accompanied by cabinet ministers and top-ranking military and government officials, he is paying his first visit to his country's southern neighbour since taking power in a military coup last year. Officials here said Bashir was expected to seek improved Sudan-Uganda relations, soured by cross-border incidents, including air attacks from the southern Sudan, torn by a civil war.

Sudan arrests 3rd journalist

CAIRO (R) — Sudan has arrested a journalist who works as a part-time correspondent for Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), diplomats said Sunday. Alfred Taban, a Sudanese who was worked for Reuters since October 1987, is the third journalist working for foreign media who has been held in Sudan without explanation during the past two months. The diplomats said Taban was detained in Khartoum Saturday and is believed to be held by the internal security services. Reuter's Sudan correspondent Hamza Hendawi, an Egyptian, was released in Khartoum on Tesuday after four days in detention. There was no official explanation for his detention and Hendawi has since left the Sudan. Sudan did not explain its reasons for the detention for eight days in February of British journalist Julian Ozanne. He reports for London's Financial Times and Sunday Correspondent.

Ethiopian team arrives in N. Yemen

SANAA (R) — An Ethiopian government team has arrived in North Yemen for talks with Eritrean rebels fighting for independence in the northern Ethiopian province of Eritrea. The North Yemeni News Agency Sunday quoted a spokesman for the government delegation as saying on arrival Saturday "talks are aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in northern Ethiopia." A delegation from the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) also arrived in Sanaa Saturday for the talks.

France reinforces Chad garrison

PARIS (AP) — France has reinforced its garrisons in eastern Chad after violent attacks on Chadian troops by Libyan-backed rebels operating from Sudan, the Defence Ministry confirmed Saturday. A second transport airplane and a military surgical unit were dispatched to the region to assist government forces and provide security for the 100 French soldiers there, a ministry spokesman told the Associated Press. A company of troops comprising 146 men left their base in Carcassonne, southern France, for Chad Thursday, a base spokesman said. A further 1,000 soldiers at the base were on alert.

Party calls for Bourguiba's freedom

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's main opposition party, the movement of Socialist Democrats, has said the authorities were holding former President Habib Bourguiba under what amounted to house arrest and should let him go. "He (Bourguiba) is under strict supervision and receives visits only from his family, some acquaintances and his doctors, only with advance permission from the authorities," the party said in this week's edition of its newspaper Al Mustaqbal. The government says Bourguiba, who is living in a government house in the coastal town of Monastir, is free to go where he wants and see whoever he wishes.

Turkey seeks political unity against Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal will host talks with political leaders Monday to seek a unified front against an upsurge in Kurdish rebel violence.

The meeting follows calls for more rights for Kurds during the most violent start to any year since the Marxist rebels launched an independence campaign in the southeast in mid-1984.

"The problem should be solved within the realm of democracy and without sacrificing human rights," said a spokesman for the main opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

Sources in the ruling centre-right Motherland Party said the cabinet was determined to crack down on the rebels but might consider a softer stance towards ordinary Kurds.

Turkey does not regard its estimated 10 million Kurds — nearly one in five of the population — as a minority. Many officials refer to them as "mountain Turks".

Kurdish, widely spoken privately, cannot be used in official dealings and is not taught in schools. Even Kurdish songs are forbidden in some towns. Last October, a singer was banned in the town of Van for singing popular Kurdish songs.

A total of 55 people were reported killed in March in the rugged southeast, where most Kurds live, compared with only 16 in January-March 1989.

More than 2,000 people, including soldiers, have been killed since the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) launched its campaign near the Iraqi, Syrian and Iranian borders.

Turkey has indirectly accused the three countries of supporting the rebels, estimated to number more than 2,000.

SHP leader Erdal Inonu said he would attend the talks with Ozal and Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut. Suleyman Demirel, head of the centre-right True Path Party, indicated he would also be there.

"By agreeing to attend, I am trying to fulfil the duty that rests with us for the preservation of national unity and territorial integrity," Inonu told reporters Thursday.

Inonu and Demirel have been implacable foes of Ozal since he was elected president by parliament last November. His victory was ensured by what they termed an outdated majority held by the Motherland, which Ozal led from 1983.

Opposition sources said Inonu and Demirel were likely to use the talks to press for early general elections following the Motherland's continued plunge in popularity.

Ozal called for the talks after a meeting last Wednesday of the National Security Council, which includes leaders of the armed forces.

Fresh trouble erupted on March 21 when at least four people were killed in Cizre, overlooking Syria, during a Kurdish demonstration. Similar protests were held in major cities.

Cizre was later clamped under a 36-hour curfew backed by tanks. Officials blamed rebel marksmen for the killings.

On Friday trouble spread for the first time to Diyarbakir, the main southeastern city and headquarters of the fight against PKK guerrillas.

Local sources said about 10 people were detained when they closed their shops after receiving telephone calls and leaflets from the PKK seeking passive as well as active resistance in the economically-backward southeast.

"Nobody with common sense would deny the fact that social reasons lie beneath the problems in the southeast," political columnist Ugur Mumcu wrote in the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet.

"Unless the social structure of the east and souteast is changed, problems will never end."

Rebels call for talks

Meanwhile the leader of separatist Kurdish rebels was quoted Sunday as calling for a ceasefire and talks with Ankara to end the conflict which has killed more than 2,000 people since mid-1984.

"Let us declare a ceasefire and negotiate," Hurriyet newspaper quoted Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the PKK, as saying.

"This is a crazy special warfare... in 1990 there will be greater bloodshed but I am not responsible for it. We shall spread terror to all over Turkey," Ocalan was quoted as saying.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran
15:40 ..... Programme review
15:45 ..... Children programmes
18:00 ..... News summary in Arabic
18:05 ..... World News
19:15 ..... Local programme
19:40 ..... Programme review
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Arabic series
21:30 ..... Programme review
21:40 ..... Local programmes
23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... French film
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
19:45 ..... Varieties
20:30 ..... Empty Nest
21:10 ..... Tusitala
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... FIFA Soccer

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 ..... Fajr
05:19 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
11:39 ..... Dhuhr
15:12 ..... 'Asr
17:59 ..... Maghreb
19:18 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue to be cold, cloudy and rainy with expected snowfall on high mountains and winds will be westerly fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with scattered showers of rain and winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	3 / 8
Aqaba	12 /18
Deserts	3 / 11
Jordan Valley	10 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 52 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Anwar Aqrabawi	642696
Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad	744685
Dr. Bassim Qaddoumi	646024
Dr. Abdul Hadi Yayyem	620115
Piras pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Azema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Rizq Mahmoud	(—)
Al Shara' pharmacy	985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Mufeed Damrah	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amm	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)
09:00 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
09:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
09:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
10:30 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
17:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)
18:00 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:15 ..... London (RJ)
18:30 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
20:15 ..... Istanbul, Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:20 ..... Sanaa (LH)
10:05 ..... Cairo (MS)
11:00 ..... Bucharest (RO)
12:30 ..... Kuwait (KU)
12:35 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)
17:30 ..... Paris (AF)
23:25 ..... Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:00 ..... Istanbul, Rome (RJ)
11:10 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 ..... Brussels, Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:45 ..... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
19:40 ..... Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:10 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
20:15 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
20:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)
20:45 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 ..... Beirut (ME)
10:10 ..... Frankfurt (LH)
10:55 ..... Cairo (MS)
12:00 ..... Bucharest (RO)
13:45 ..... Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
13:45 ..... Kuwait (KU)
15:00 ..... Baghdad (IA)
18:30 ..... Baghdad (AF)
00:25 ..... Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apple	480 / 440
Banana	450 / 400
Banana (Makanmar)	400 / 350
Beans	1200 / 900
Cabbage	80 / 50
Carrot	220 / 170
Cauliflower	250 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	250 / 200
Cucumbets (small)	470 / 420
Dates	480 / 400
Eggplant	300 / 250
Garlic	700 / 600
Grapefruit	240 / 200
Lemon	290 / 240
Lettuce (per one)	120 / 80
Marrow (large)	250 / 200
Marrow (small)	380 / 340
Onion (dry)	270 / 220
Onion (green)	200 / 160
Orange	330 / 280
Orange (Shamouti)	400 / 350
Pepper (hot)	1200 / 1000
Pepper (sweet)	550 / 450
Potato	240 / 200
Raddish	150 / 100
Sage	400 / 350
Spinach	160 / 110
Tomatoes	300 / 250

Donations for cornea cases planned in W. German bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian expatriate who had arranged for a successful eye operation in West Germany for a boy from the district of Jerash Sunday handed Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the chief chamberlain a cheque donated by members of a West German church congregation.

Butros Tawil, a plastic surgeon living and working in West Germany had arranged in February for the eight year old Jaafar Momani to travel to West Germany where the boy underwent a successful operation for the replacement of one of his corneas.

The boy is now back in his hometown and is reportedly having normal sight, thanks to Dr. Tawil and the German ophthalmologists.

Tawil, accompanied by his wife, brought to Prince Ra'd the sum of DM 1,300 from members of the churches in Lingen who urged Dr. Tawil to use it to pay for the operation which took place at Munster in West Germany.

Prince Ra'd and Princess Majda received Tawil and his wife at the Royal Court and thanked them for their efforts. The prince advised the Jordanian expatriate to deposit the money in a special account in West Germany to serve as a basis for other donations. These could be used to finance operations for other Jordanians in need of corneas.

Jaafar's appeal for help through the call-in programme on Radio Jordan last February attracted the attention of His Majesty King Hussein who instructed Prince Ra'd to arrange for medical treatment. The radio programme also drew the attention of Dr. Tawil who, in cooperation with the chief chamberalin arranged for the operation in West Germany.

The director of the eye bank in Jordan drew attention at the time to the plight of hundreds of Jordanians in need of corneas and appealed to the public to donate their corneas after death to benefit needy patients.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met the Director-General Fadel Ali Fheid and his assistants. The Prince heard a breifing on the work of the departments in the various provinces and about the general security situation. Later Prince Hassan visited the headquarters of the special police forces and the badia and border police headquarters.

Jordan attends IPU conference

NICOSIA (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar arrived here Saturday evening to participate in the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) 83rd conference scheduled to start Monday. Arar, who is heading Jordan's delegation to the conference, was received upon arrival by representatives of the Cypriot Foreign Ministry and Parliament.

Yarmouk, Trieste centre to cooperate

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University and the Trieste-based International Centre for Theoretical Physics Sunday concluded an agreement of cooperation in the scientific field. Under the agreement the centre will finance the university's purchase of scientific books, magazines and reference books that will help researchers. The centre will also cover for travel costs and accommodation for visiting scholars and students of higher studies in the Arab region, in addition to organising scientific activities of interest to Jordan and the Arab region.

IDB approves JD 1.1m loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has approved seven loans totally worth JD 1.1 million to finance four industrial projects and three touristic projects. The three touristic projects, costing some JD 810,000 include building and furnishing two hotels in Amman and one in Aqaba. The IDB has granted 26 loans totally worth JD 4.7 million since the beginning of this year. The amount includes JD 3.24 million to finance industrial projects.

JUST opens Karameh exhibition

RAMTHA (Petra) — As part of celebrations held by the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) of Al Karameh Battle anniversary an exhibition was opened Sunday by Student Affairs dean Ali Al Zaghal. The four-day exhibition includes oil paintings and photos depicting the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The exhibition includes a special pavillion displaying photos of Al Karameh Battle.

Golf games to open in May

AMMAN (J.T.) — An informal new association of golfers in Jordan will hold its first championship on May 1. Some 100 competitors, including visitors from Arab states, are expected to take part in the event, which will be sponsored by Hotel Jordan Inter.Continental. The club, formed in July, aims at catering for an increasingly large number of golfers in Jordan and might eventually become a nucleus for a countryside sporting club. The games will be held at the newly established Bisharat golf course, which has been set up some 14 kilometres south of Amman close to the Seven Hills National Park. Entry will be free and all prospective competitors should register by April 2. Full details can be obtained from Hotel Jordan Inter.Continental, Sales Dept. Ext. 2238.

Correction

Due to an inadvertent error, the Jordan Times, in its Sunday issue, identified Jordan's permanent delegate to the U.N. as Salah Khalaf instead of Abdullah Salah. We regret the error.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabulsi at the Housing Bank Complex.
- Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition entitled "Man and Land" by Jordanian artist Khalil Ghawanmeh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings and photos that depict the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
- Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroideries, ceramics, woollen clothes and foodstuffs at Al Quds Community College.
- The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

- Arabic children's play entitled "Al Shahed" (the witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

FILM

- French film entitled "Si Versailles m'était conte" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

A scene from the Amman central vegetable market. Merchants are now complaining that a ministry decision to allow the export of some produce has pushed up the prices (J.T. file photo)

Merchants blame ministry for produce price increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — The current rise in the price of vegetables and fruit and the poor quality of produce offered for sale at the local markets are a result of a government decision, allowing for the export of vegetables and fruit to the Gulf countries, and to the wave of frost which hit the crops in the north Jordan Valley and the eastern winds which hit the south Jordan Valley, according to merchants at the Amman central vegetables market.

Akram Tubeishat, a middle man (broker) at the Amman central market, in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, attributed the price hike partly to the monthly plan drawn up by the Agricultural Marketing Corporation to organise the import and export of vegetables and fruit. He said the rise in the prices of onions for example was caused by the plan, which has banned the import of onions for a period of one month.

Jamal Abu Sham, another vegetable wholesaler and a broker at the Amman central vegetables market supported the government's measures, and stressed the need for exporting such items to attract foreign currency and to safeguard the interest of farmers. He said that the whole issue of export, import and pricing needs a comprehensive planning process, in which all the parties concerned have to participate.

The Ministry of Supply has recently received many complaints about the soaring prices of vegetables and fruit. The prices have increased remarkably since the beginning of the fasting month of Ramadan. People have blamed the Ministry of Supply's inspection teams.

Inspectors beaten

The teams have been intensifying their inspection campaigns to ensure the prices fixed by the ministry are adhered to. Three supply inspectors have recently been severely beaten by a shopowner in Amman Governorate, when they were about to give him a ticket for violating the prices, set by the ministry for certain kinds of vegetables. Trying to write down the ticket, the inspector was severely hit by the merchant and his sons who used sharp tools, and a pipe. His two colleagues received the same treatment when they tried to save their colleague who had sustained an injury.

Commenting on the supply situation, Zarqa Governor Mohammad Al Shobaki said that supply items are available in big quantities and called on all people to inform supply inspectors of any violations or of any information about merchants trying to hide certain foodstuffs, in preparation for referring them to the courts concerned for trial. However, the governor met with poultry farmers in the governorate and reached an agreement with them, whereby they will sell live chicken to citizens at 850 fils per kilo during Ramadan. The Ministry of Supply had earlier fixed prices of chicken at 750 fils per kilo, but farmers did not abide by the price announced by the ministry and either hid it or sold to citizens at prices ranging between 850 fils and 950 fils,

Moniika Vega, a Brazilian around-the-world motor-cyclist, on her way through Amman

Around the world on a bike

AMMAN (J.T.) — Clad in blue jeans, leather boots and a leather jacket Moniika Vega is determined to go around the globe on her motorbike. Moniika, 27 comes from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "I intend to visit 73 countries and travel a total of 88,000 kilometres," Moniika told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"My intention is to spread the message of peace and love," Moniika said. She started in Milano, Italy early this year and then crossed the Mediterranean to Tunis. She then travelled via Libya and Egypt to Jordan.

Moniika rides a Honda MTX125 motorbike. She does all repairs and medical work herself. Her trek is sponsored by two companies, the Japanese manufacturer of helmets, Shoei, and the Italian manufacturer of children products Carefree. The whole trip might cost around $50,000; I can't afford that of course," Moniika said.

Unlike many explorers who spend their time on the move and rest in sleeping bags, Moniika travels relatively comfortable. She sleeps at hotels and eats at restaurants.

"I can't afford expensive hotels or expensive food, but to be fit I need reasonable food and a good night's sleep," she says.

What does Moniika do while travelling?

"I take photos, mainly of children," she says. She also reads books about people and travel and loves to "talk to people and find out how they think."

How did it go so far?

"Not bad. I had some problems," she says. On Sunday Moniika applied for a visa to Saudi Arabia. She complained of crowdedness at the Saudi embassy and of some visa officials' rudeness.

Tuesday she intends to travel to Syria and from there to Iraq and then Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. From there she plans to travel to S..Africa, then Australia, Asia, Europe, North America, S. America, Northwest Africa and back to Italy.

CSCC pledges better services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) has made plans designed to reduce the cost of products and commodities sold in its markets all over the country.

CSCC acting Director-General Mohammad Al Naser said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the CSCC had set up a special factory to produce packets and carry out the process of packing various products displayed for the beneficiaries in the corporation's markets.

"This is being done to bring down still further the prices of various commodities which are sold at 22 market branches to the government employees with limited income," he said.

According to Naser, the coming seven weeks will witness the opening of a new branch, the largest among CSCC branches to date, at Jubeiha, to serve employees living at Marj Al Hamam, the vicinity of the University of Jordan and Sweileh.

"Not only is the Jubeiha branch the largest in the Kingdom but it will display greater amount of products," Naser said.

"Before the end of 1990 the total number of CSCC markets will rise to 30 which will be distributed fairly around the Kingdom," he added.

Naser paid tribute to a recent government decision to increase the CSCC's quota from JD 4.5 million to JD 6.5 million, a move which, he said, will enable the corporation to offer better services to the employees and their families.

Naser said that the CSCC normally announces one tender each week to purchase locally produced and imported commodities for its branches. "Once in a while beneficiaries do not find what they need because it sometimes takes a whole day to provide commodities from the central depots," he added.

Naser said that the corporation's branches have been crowded lately because of increased purchasing for the month of Ramadan.

Entry of W. Bankers, Gazans and produce to be facilitated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat and a senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Jordan Sunday discussed the formation of a joint committee of agricultural experts to organise the entry of agricultural products from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip into Jordan.

The move was seen as one further step to provide facilities for the citizens of the occupied Arab territories and help the transportation of their produce to or through Jordan into other Arab countries.

Last December the government announced its agreement to ease restrictions on the movement of people and goods from the Israeli-held West Bank.

Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh said that the government would extend the duration of Jordanian passports given to West Bank residents. The government would also take new measures to ease the movement of residents from West Bank and Gaza and their farm produce into Jordan.

Arabiyat discussed Sunday with PLO official Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya the question of importation of Palestinian products and ways to determine dates and quantities for their entry into the Kingdom.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the minister and Yahya stressed the need for a certificate of origin for the Palestinian products, which will be required to facilitate crops marketing in Jordan and other Arab countries.

Arabiyat said that Jordan will do all it can to support the Palestinian farmers' efforts and will take all measures to overcome any difficulties that impede marketing of products, Petra said.

Jordan used to buy almost half the West Bank's agricultural output mainly olive oil and citrus before severing ties with the West Bank in July 1988. Yahya who is a PLO executive committee member and head of the PLO's economy and planning department agreed with Arabiyat that both sides should exchange information and studies related to agriculture and crops that are allowed to enter Jordan.

Cold front to stay

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cold front from central Europe, which affected Jordan Saturday evening and Sunday, is expected to bring in more rain Monday and light snow in very high regions, according to the Department of Meteorology.

A department spokesman said that regions above 1,000 metres could receive snow and the rain will continue to fall all over the Kingdom.

Only parts of the south, especially Maan did not receive rain on Sunday, the officail said. He predicted temperatures would not exceed 8 degrees Centigrade during the day Monday, falling to as low as 3 degrees Centigrade at night.

W. German tourist found dead in Petra

AMMAN (AP) — A West German archaeologist visiting Jordan was found dead last week in the ancient Nabataean city of Petra in the southern part of the country, police reported Sunday.

Prof. Heinz Eberhard Giesecke, 77, of Celle, near Hanover, apparently fell off a ledge Wednesday in a rocky area near the newly excavated Temple of the Winged Lions, close to the main archaeological sites in Petra.

Civil Defence Department Chief Afeef Al Ghoul told the Associated Press that the body was found late Thursday after Giesecke was reported missing by other members of his tour group.

Ghoul said the body was found "lying at the bottom of a mountain and it took us hours to lift it with ropes from a helicopter because that area is very steep and rocky."

It was not immediately clear how Giesecke fell, but police sources speculated that he could have had a heart attack or slipped and fell onto the rocks.

One source, who cannot be named under police regulations, said the body will be flown to Celee later this week.

Police also reported that as the search was underway for the professor, another German national aged 75 was found stranded somewhere in the Nabataean city.

The Al Ra'i daily quoted police sources as saying that the man was found to be suffering from pains in the stomach and was rushed to the nearby Wadi Musa medical centre for treatment.

Book week opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — A series of book exhibitions and cultural events started in Jordan Sunday in observance of the national book week.

Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki attended one of these events at the headquarters of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA), where he opened an exhibition of national books and publications.

DLDNA director Ahmad Sharkas delivered a speech on the occasion, remarking that the week's events are designed to promote culture and to encourage the public to read.

Sharkas said that Jordan had observed this annual event since 1972 when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) named that year the year of the book.

Sharkas said that the DLDNA had moved to a new building where researchers and scholars can conduct research and study and review documents and manuscripts as well as various reference books and publications.

Altogether, the new offices house some 70,000 books and 6,000 manuscripts and historical documents about national conferences, royal decrees and others.

Sharkas paid tribute to the Ministry of Education and Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts for helping to arrange for the week's activities.

Two senior officials from DLDNA and the Jordan Library Association (JLA) delivered two lectures reviewing various forms of work related to printing of books and the library movement and cultural events involving book exhibitions in Jordan over the years.

Among the various week-long activities is a chilren's painting competition and a national book exhibition displaying books published in the 1980s.

Police nab thieves, forgers

AMMAN (Petra) — Police in the Balqa Governorate Sunday announced the capture of 16 persons who had taken part in robberies and thefts in the governorate over the past three months.

A police spokesman said that two of the captured men had carried out robberies at Allan and Zay, stealing jewellery, electric appliances and cigarettes and breaking into homes and stores.

According to the spokesman, two of the captured men carried out robberies at south Shuneh and three others broke open cars at the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley.

A report in the local daily Al Dustour Sunday said a local jeweller reported to the police that a man had visited his store and offered him $1,000 for JD 670. He brought part of the dollars to the police and they proved to be counterfeit.

Investigation led to the capture of three persons.

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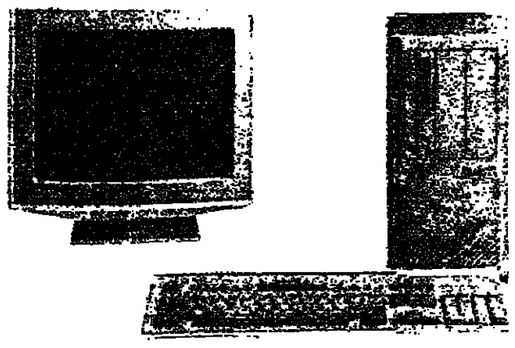

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3379 upsets U.S.?

THE U.S. is frantically negotiating with members of the United Nations in a bid to repeal U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3379 that equates Zionism with racism. In doing so Washington is clearly trying to cash in on the relaxation of East-West relations, notably between the Soviet Union and the United States. It will be recalled that the socialist countries provided the backbone support for this resolution. But that era has gone and the United States seeks to seize on the new opportunities created by the breakdown of the communist order to reverse a judgement that has been strongly held and supported by the greater majority of the community of nations.

Yet, to repeal such a landmark resolution and cause an abrupt turnabout in positions of U.N. member states would suggest that all those countries which voiced their support for the resolution were totally wrong and misguided. This is particularly so in the absence of any repeal of Israel's various discriminatory laws and practices in the occupied territories. Had there been a fundamental improvement in Israel's stance on basic human rights there might be some semblance of justification for reversing once clearly held positions. But the facts speak otherwise. All attempts to incorporate basic human rights into Israel's organic law had been defeated not once but many times over. Lest Washington forget, the two principal Israeli political parties, Likud and Labour, have repeatedly played policies with issues of human rights in their country and promised to defeat all legislative attempts to introduce fundamental human rights provisions into Israeli laws in return for political support from religious parties which have been fighting tooth and nail against any dilution of Israel's discriminatory laws against non-Jews.

The United States would be better advised to negotiate with its staunch ally in the Middle East the repeal of all its overtly discriminatory laws, especially the law of the "right to return," which offers Jews most favoured treatment over non-Jews to settle in Palestine for no reason other than their religious faith. If such a law is not discriminatory and racial, one does not know what is. If Washington and all those forces standing behind it are genuinely concerned about repealing the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism, the least that one would expect to do in conjunction with that politically motivated effort is to negotiate with Israel as well, with a view to introducing basic human rights principles into its body of laws and cease from practising discriminatory policies against the Palestinian people who are still being prevented from returning to their ancestral homeland.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

By rebuilding its economy after the eight-year Gulf war and by acquiring weapons for self-defence, Iraq seems to be antagonising the enemies of the Arab World, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper, commenting on the ongoing hostile campaigns in the West against Iraq, said that Baghdad which came out victorious from the Gulf conflict is trying hard to acquire means to defend the Arab homeland, but the enemies want to deprive the Arab Nation of the right to be strong enough to defend its interests and its future. This hostile campaign is more than a mere media onslaught on the Arabs, it is part of a series of concerted efforts by the West to keep the Arabs backward, weak and incapable of confronting Israel and its conspiracies in the region, said the paper. It is a national duty for all the Arabs, the paper continued, to rally behind Iraq and provide this Arab country with all the support and backing it requires not only to deal with the ongoing hostile campaign but also to enable it to become even stronger to defend Arab future and security and the Arab order. All Arab citizens, organisations, unions and governments are now called upon to extend to Baghdad all the help it needs at present to foil all enemy conspiracies and hostile plans, the paper concluded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday described the current onslaught in the Western media against Iraq as a means of distorting the Arab Nation's image and of paving the way for a new conspiracy and an aggression on this Arab country. **Abdul Rahim Omar** notes that Iraq is trying to rebuild its economy after the war and its military force to defend the Arab Nation against external attacks, and is being confronted in this legitimate endeavour by a hostile campaign being directed through the Western media. The writer also notes that Israel has stolen all the design for war planes, nuclear arms, war ships and other secrets from the West and has collaborated with South Africa in the constructin of rockets and amassing nuclear arms, but that was considered legitimate by the West which did not even criticise such action. Since the end of the Gulf war, says the writer, Israel has been interested in Iraq's armed forces trying to monitor its military capability and expressing fears of this country's growing might with which the Arabs can regain their legitimate rights and lands. Now Israel and the West are launching a concerted campaign against Iraq obviously paving the way for a new act of aggression on that country similar to that which occurred nine years ago, the writer adds. he says that Iraq, more than any Arab state, is capable of repelling attacks on the Arab Nation and defending Arab soil, and therefore, it is now targetted by Israel and the West which is more than at any time in the past displaying hatred for the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab daily on Sunday pointed to the numerous challenges and dangers posed to the Arab Nation which, it said, remains dormant and incapable of standing up to the new challenge. The paper said that the present Arab situation is pitiable and painful and the Arab ranks are still in disarray while no indication is pointing to a change in the situation, prompting Israel and its allies to act in total disregard to Arab feelings and Arab interests. The paper pointed to the ongoing ferocious hostile campaign against Iraq launched by the United States, Israel and Britain, the threats to Libya, the ongoing Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine from Eastern Europe and a retreat by the U.S. administration from previous declaration about Jerusalem.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Retrieving funds should be the goal

JUDGING by what has already been published about corruption, not to mention what has been also public knowledge all along, the magnitude and dimension of this cancerous socio-economic disease are so large and widespread that it may never be possible to unearth it completely. Many people believe that the phenomenon of corruption in Jordan goes back several decades and that only the tip of the iceberg has so far been exposed. Worst of all there are fears that the entire subject of corruption might end up becoming the prey of some backdoor wheeling and dealing including some horse trading in which the primary culprits would remain faceless. The talk of the town these days, in the wake of the press revelations of the parliamentary debate, that only the small fish may be caught, leaving the sharks beyond reach.

Yet as true and valid are these lingering thoughts and anxieties may be, the primary concern should be directed not so much in the direction of prosecution and sensational exposure as much as in the direction of retrieving some of the country's lost funds and revenues. In legal terms it would be such a horrendous task to prove criminality in much of the actions and business deals subject of public scrutiny now. I suspect that much time will be lost in pursuing criminal prosecution as many of the culprits have covered up their traces rather meticulously. Instead of aiming for such impossible judicial objectives, the government would be better advised to pursue quasi-legal procedures instead with the avowed purpose of retrieving some of the lost funds and revenues. The most operational way in this vein would be to engage the suspects in plea bargaining conducted in the a view to encouraging them to accept deals involving the repayment of unduly or unfairly collected or earned profits or commissions in return for stopping all legal actions against them. In situations where prima facie cases can be established against suspects of corruption, the accused would naturally be under added pressure to strike a deal for fear of losing their cases. In any case the monies and properties of would-be suspects can never be so immune from legal action simply because they are safely tucked away in foreign banks or invested in business concerns outside the reach of the country's judicial system. No matter where such undnly or unfairly collected profits are tucked away, they can still be reached by one judicial system or another sooner or later. All those subject to this public outcry against corruption would never have the peace of mind that will allow them to enjoy their material bounty except by returning at least some of the extravagant profits that they had reaped or pocketed in return for a clean bill of health that could be issued to them after the "deal" with the government is completed. All negotiations leading to such compromise solutions will, of course, be conducted without prejudice to the person or persons subject to such deals.

Those who might be tempted to reject such generous offers would naturally risk losing all in one way or another or at some time or another. There is a significant body of laws on such corruption cases as the ones experienced by Jordan, especially in sophisticated jurisdictions where the "stolen" monies are most likely to be found that would tempt the suspects to be less reckless or confident to refuse plea bargaining with the government off hand. This is not to mention the mental anguish that such suspects and their families would avoid by reciprocating the government's offer to strike a deal with them during a prescribed grace period.

In situations where Jordanians have made exaggerated profits or fat belly commissions on business deals conducted in a lawful way but paid no taxes on them, then the attention of the government should be directed towards of collecting the owing taxes by the plea bargaining procedure also.

It will be recalled that many business sharks in Jordan have earned huge commissions or profits that were automatically diverted to their foreign accounts without a visible trace as far as the Jordanian income tax authorities are concerned. And where it may not be easy to incriminate them for tax evasion in a court of law because of lack of evidence, they can still be invited to enter into plea bargaining procedure on the basis of pay up or accept to be dragged to court.

What I mention here as possible alternatives to retrieve lost monies to the government cannot of course be viewed as exclusive, but rather as mere suggestions as to what is available to the government as options to cut its losses incurred as a consequence of the corruption monster that had infiltrated the Jordanian socio-economic life for so long.

Elbowing Palestinians in Palestine

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The accelerating exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel explains the severity of the cabinet crisis provoked there by renewed U.S. pressure for peace talks with the Palestinians.

That exodus promises major change in Israel's political demography and a final answer to the question of Israeli annexation of the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. Those territories are where a Palestinian state would be — if there ever is to be a Palestinian state.

Nearly a quarter million Soviet Jews now are expected in Israel this year, more than twice previous estimates, according to the Israeli press. Israel's deputy finance minister, Yossi Beilin, has said he expects 30,000 arrivals a month by next summer, an annual rate of 360,000. According to British reports, Israeli consular officials in Moscow estimate that half a million Jews have applied to the Soviet authorities for exit permits. Israel has now imposed military censorship on all information concerning Soviet immigration.

Even a slower rate of migration implies major demographic and political change. There are now some 3.5 million Jews in Israel. There were 1.8 million Jews in the Soivet Union at the time of the 1979 census. As the number of exit demands shows, these people now feel intense pressure to leave the USSR. They confront not only revived anti-Semitism but the grave deterioration in living standards that has accompanied perestroika.

No one can know how many Soviet Jews will actually leave. If present indications are borne out, Israel cout see its population increase by as much as a third, perhaps by more.

This, of course, is what the Israeli government wants. These immigrants are mostly well educated professional and technical people or skilled artisans. They will make a valuable contribution to the Israeli work force, even if settling them puts an enormous burden on an economy today in very serious difficulties. This is why Israel has asked for another $400 million in U.S. Loan guarantees.

Few of these new immigrants are religious Jews, or committed Zionists. They mostly are going to Israel because Israel is the country that will have them, not because they feel a religious or political vocation to go there. Many would prefer to go to the United States or to Western Europe. Many actually were going to America until the U.S. government, under Israeli pressure, blocked the flow.

Moreover, they often are inclined towards sympathy for the Palestinians, or at least are not automatically anti-Arab. Their views have inevitably been influenced by 40 years of Soviet official information holding Zionism to be a form of imperialism and defending the Palestinian cause.

They also want peace and quiet. Life in the Soviet Union has provided enough drama, culminating now in revived anti-Semitism and the need to abandon homes and jobs to begin life all over in a country they do not know and a language they do not speak.

They arrive to find that not only is the Palestinian uprising under way in the occupied territories but they are themselves at the centre of Israel's struggle over what the state is to become. Expansionists want them to populate the occupied areas so as to guarantee that there never will be a Palestinian state — or a "second" one, after Jordan, as Ariel Sharon claims.

Those Israelis — backed by the United States — who are prepared to trade territory for peace with the Palestinians recognise that the settlement questin is decisive. Both sides understand that the immigrants could break the political stalemate that has been suffocating Israel since the crisis created a decade ago by the invasion of Lebanon.

The Soviet Jews will not remain pawns of the Israeli parties for long — if they stay. Many may not stay, if they can find a place to go. But if they leave in large numbers, it could deal a fatal blow to the spirit sustaining Israel itself. The Zionist dream of gathering the world's Jews into a single state of their own would have been rejected by the last major bloc of Jews in the diaspora capable of fulfilling that dream.

The game is immensely important for Israel, and the United States necessarily plays a crucial hand. Israel needs American aid not only to settle these immigrants; it also depends on the United States for economic survival. Secretary of State James Baker said at a congressional hearing on March 1 that U.S. funds must not be spent to support settlements in Gaza or the West Bank, which he characterised as "an obstacle to peace." He also warned agaisnt using U.S. aid to free other funds for the settlements. — International Herald Tribune.

The last tribe?

THE last Jewish tribe is finally coming out of bondage. They come from Vilnius, Kaunas, Gomel, Minsk and Pinsk and the Pale — the cradle of Zionism. Their soft, melodic Russian is so familiar; it evokes the memory of the late lamented founding fathers. it is the authentic Zionist melody.

Yet again, Palestinian fortunes have been determined by forces and circumstances beyond their control, and by their own miscalculations. They always paid dearly for the wickedness of others (Nazis, Communists) and could never withstand, nor understand, the force of Jewish desperation.

The Russian children arriving at Ben-Gurion airport will one day have to fight, as soldiers, for the Jewish "Law of Reutrn" against the Palestinian "right of return" — and the dilemma will persist. One can take sides, invoking "absolute" or "relative" justice; one can deny the dichotomy; one can fall silent. One may also take comfort in the fact that Russian immigration is the last wave, after which there will be no more rabbits in the hat. — Meron Benvenisti, commenting in the Washington Post.

Long road ahead for Salvador peace talks

By Martin Langfield
Reuter

SAN SALVADOR — The announcement of fresh peace talks between the Salvadorean government and leftist rebels in early April brings hope that 10 years of civil war could finally end, diplomats and politicians say.

But a long road lies ahead before the two sides can shake hands on a peace treaty.

Diplomats said that despite some concessions from both sides, the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) remain far apart on basic issues.

The new talks, beginning on April 4 in Geneva, were announced on Friday by United Nations spokesman Francois Giuliani in New York.

The Salvadorean government said it hoped the talks would lead to peace, but played down the prospect of immediate results.

"We don't think this meeting is going to resolve everything," government spokesman Mauricio Sandoval said. "It's just the resumption of the process."

Some 75,000 people have been killed in El Salvador in Central America's bloodiest civil war.

Sandoval said President Alfredo Cristiani would not take a direct part in the talks. The government delegation would be led by Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria and be similar to that sent to previous talks.

Cristiani, speaking in Caracas where he was on an official visit, said there was no need for a purge of anti-democratic elements from the armed forces — a key rebel demand in previous talks that broke down in October.

"The professionalisation of the armed forces is something that is under way, not something that needs to be started now," a Salvadorean radio station quoted him as saying.

The radio report said Cristiani offered an amnesty to rebel fighters and that the government was ready to legalise the FMLN as a political party.

Despite such apparent concessions, rebel demands on army reform and softening the governments free-market economic policies will persist as basic sticking-points in the talks, one Latin American diplomat said.

"I think there could be a peace treaty," he said. "But it's going to take a long time, at least the rest of this year. There are so many things they have to agree on."

Fidel Chaves Mena, leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Partys, said the talks should aim at disbanding the FMLN and demilitarising Salvadorean society.

A rebel commander interviewed recently in the northern province of Morazan said the FMLN was prepared to take part in March 1991 elections if the government guaranteed full freedom of expression, began prosecution of the country's infamous far-right death squads and reformed aspects of the electoral system.

"While the causes that generated the war are not resolved, alternatives will just crash into that reality," he told Reuters.

One Western diplomat said he saw the relaunching of talks as positive but little should be expected from the initial Geneva meeting.

LETTERS

Arab and Islamic legacy

To the Editor

EARLIER in March during the fifth international conference on the history of Bilad Al Sham in Amman some of the participants questioned the relationship of the study of the Abbasid dynasty to Bilad Al Sham in 1990, stating that Bilad Al Sham was "always a geographical and cultural union, it was never a political and economic union." Other participants however, stressed the importance of "exposure to enlightened aspects of our history and culture."

The history of the Arab people is a long and fascinating one and great emphasis should always be placed on any country's past, for history is the foundation of any group of people. Understanding Arab history is understanding ourselves. When one of the American participants of the conference questioned the relevance of the historical study of the conference, then we must ask him why such great emphasis is placed in American history in classrooms to small children in the U.S.? Repetitious teaching of American heroes is an inspiration to children.

Certainly the most brilliant period of Arab and Islamic history was during the Abbasid Empire. This period of time is best known for its intellectual achievements. It was a period in which there evolved a momentous intellectual awakening in the history of Islam and is the most significant period in the whole Islamic history and culture. The Arab civilisation that developed between the 7th and 11th centuries contributed immensely to human civilisation and Europe was the main direct beneficiary of Arab contributions. The Abbasid period encouraged translation of foreign works. While the Arabs were building their monumental civilisation, Europe was still asleep in the Dark ages.

Bilad Al Sham contained people with great talents of adaptability in arts, sciences, politics and industry. It is every Arab child's legacy to know the relationship of not only the Abbasid Empire to 1990, but to know all the glories of past Arab and Islamic history.

Once the Arabs were brilliant, intellectual and had an amazing and vast potential as well as an incredible Islamic Empire. No people have been more rich in their history. Frederick II of Germany, a renaissance leader and one of the most progressive European monarchs of his time, was an "Arabised" European. He considered Arabs the most civilised people on earth. Frederick dressed in Arab style, patronised Arab scholars and Arab art and emulated Arabs in many other ways. King Frederick was "Arabised" as many contemporary "modern" Arabs are "Westernised."

There is a new re-awakening now in all Arab people. They still have the potential, they still possess brilliance and are becoming connoisseurs in many fields. There is an immense need to relate Arab history to 1990 and the future for only breath-taking pride can derive from the study of this magnificent history and an awareness that the Arabs can still become a great people and that this vast potential will yet be found within themselves.

E. Yaghi
Amman

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

Peanuts

هكذا في الأصل

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Dear Shareholders,

In June 1989, Arab Bank started the sixtieth year of its operation. This institution was an idea which its late founder, Mr. Abdulhameed Shoman, had dreamed about when he was in the United States of America. He firmly believed that he would return to his homeland to establish a pioneering financial institution to serve all the Arab countries. Abdulhameed Shoman did, in fact, realize his dream before he passed away. Our institution has now spread to every part of the world and we are still committed to the fulfilment of its mission in this closing decade of the twentieth century.

Our institution has always been a major pillar of the Arab economy through its constructive policy, its achievements, and its successful adaptation to changing circumstances. It has also financially linked the Arab countries with the rest of the world through its network of branches and institutions in forty-five countries worldwide.

I have the greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 60th Meeting of our General Assembly and briefly review with you last year's business environment as well as our Bank's major achievements.

Business Environment

In 1989, there continued to be economic hardship in Jordan, characterised mainly by a decrease in its foreign currency reserves, which led to a significant decline in the exchange rate of the dinar. Moreover, the Government was unable to meet its external debt obligations and was forced to reschedule most of them. To prevent continuous deterioration, the Government and the monetary authorities drew up economic plans to reduce the deficit in the budget and the balance of payments. The plans also aim at developing national capacities and self-reliance, building up foreign exchange reserves as well as restoring economic and monetary stability.

Early in 1989 the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was formed with the membership of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen, a historical event on which more than eighty million people are pinning high hopes and expectations. His Majesty King Hussein described this economic union as: «a major milestone in the effort to integrate the Arab world.»

As far as the Arab world is concerned, the steady price of oil throughout 1989 helped the oil-producing countries to meet their financial obligations. The Arab world also experienced a number of positive changes which we hope will be reflected in the general economic situation and add to political stability, especially the restoration of the legal rights of the Palestinian people.

The many unexpected changes which swept through Eastern Europe in 1989 are likely to attenuate the military tension between East and West. The human race now faces new challenges to achieve economic prosperity and ecological stability.

Economic growth in most of the industrialised countries was relatively modest during the past year, and the rate of growth of GNP fluctuated between 2% and 4%. The central banks of those countries raised the interest rate of their currencies to suppress the risk of inflation, and partially succeeded in stabilizing the fluctuations in the exchange rates of their currencies.

Operating Performance of the Bank

In 1989, the Bank accomplished impressive results in revenue and assets. It was also able to increase its prime quality loan portfolio to levels unattained in the past. In briefing you on the most important achievements, I would like to assure you that we remain faithful to the principles laid down by the late Mr. Abdulhameed Shoman and are endeavouring to fulfil the mission he envisioned.

The net income of the Bank, after deduction of all expenses, allowances and taxes, reached JD 52.3 million, which is an increase of JD 17.2 million and 48.8% over that of 1988. The income of the Group was U.S. $98.1 million compared to U.S. $86.8 million in 1988. These positive figures have been achieved for the first time in the history of the Bank.

The increase in the Bank's assets was also impressive in that they reached, at the end of 1989, around JD 6,304 million compared to JD 4,571 million in 1988. The devaluation of the Jordanian dinar contributed to this increase. It is noteworthy to mention that this positive growth has continued even after discounting the effect of the devaluation of the dinar. Moreover, the Bank's external sources, deposits and other accounts increased by JD 1,651 million and [illegible] to JD 5,917 million. As for the Arab Bank Group, the assets by the end of 1989 were around U.S. $13 billion, hence slightly decreased.

You will observe from the financial report in your hands that in 1989 the Bank pursued its positive policy and drive to manage its funds efficiently. Its loan portfolio grew to JD 2,345 million compared to JD 1,587 million on 31st December 1988.

The Bank also offered new services and products, the most important of which were several investment funds created through its regional branch in London. Furthermore, it reinforced its Islamic banking investments and made many other new financial services available throughout its branches. Our interest in offering Islamic Banking investment services in our international branches especially in London and New York, results from our commitment to our clients and our dedication in responding to their needs.

The Board of Directors has proposed to the General Assembly the distribution of JD 7.7 million in cash dividends, which represents 35% of the paid-in capital, and the allocation of the balance of the distributable income to the disclosed reserves. Accordingly, the disclosed shareholders equity in the Bank's financial statement at the end of 1989 reached JD 252.5 million compared to JD 208 million at the end of 1988. The Arab Bank Group's shareholders' equity amounted to U.S. $792.5 million compared to U.S. $[illegible] million in 1988. The growth of shareholders equity was negatively affected by the decline in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar. While the Bank's assets and deposits were rapidly growing in Jordanian dinars owing to the decline in the exchange rate, the growth in shareholders' equity was limited to what was allocated to it from the distributed net income. In view of the importance of capital base for the soundness of financial institutions, we will endeavour to continue strengthening our disclosed reserves by allocating a significant portion of our net income to them. This alone will have a positive influence on the Bank's share price in the market and will improve the Bank's ability to grow.

Based on our drive to enhance the value of shareholders equity, I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors recommended to the General Assembly the approval of the distribution of an additional 2,200,000 shares to the shareholders, thus raising the share capital to JD 44 million. The JD 22 million increase will be brought forward to the capital from the voluntary reserve.

Our institution continued to expand in 1989, with the recent inauguration of a new branch in Rome, Italy, and another in Seoul, South Korea. We also opened a number of offices in several cities in Jordan to serve our customers and to meet their financial needs. We hope to open new branches in other countries in the very near future.

In conformity with the Jordanian Temporary Corporate Law No. 1 of 1989, Arab Bank Ltd. will be known from now on as: Arab Bank PLC (Public Limited Company). This has no impact on the Bank's activities or on its structure of ownership.

With the meeting of your General Assembly and in conformity with section A of Article (160) of the above mentioned law, the term of office of the current Board members comes to an end.

In this respect I would like to thank all the Board members for their outstanding efforts in serving the institution through the past years. I would also like to thank our customers for their trust and continuous support and all our staff members for their hard work and loyalty to the Bank.

[illegible] Shoman
Chairman, Board of Directors

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 1990s

We at the Arab Bank approach the 1990s with ambition, drive and will-power in order to meet the new challenges successfully. The last decade of the twentieth century is likely to witness the consolidation of the radical changes that took place in the late 1980s. The traditional ideals of a balance of power based on military might are giving way to the notions of economic strength and technical superiority.

The easing of political tension between the Eastern and Western Blocs together with the prevalence of free political and economic thinking are preparing the ground for the upsurge of strong economic regional alliances, the most visible of these being the European Community. This last decade will also witness the rise of the newly developed economies in Latin America and Asia.

These changes are expected to precipitate new financial concepts and increase competition among the major players. The most influential factors affecting the banking industry will be the changes in its regulations, the most important of these changes are the capital adequacy requirement set by the Basle Committee and the accelerated deregulation of banking activities and their geographic scope of operations.

In the increasingly deregulated and competitive world of international markets, the major players are giving more importance to profitability and less to asset growth, and are consequently expected to adopt new strategies emphasizing the importance of quality revenues over larger assets. They will therefore adopt specific policies that will reduce expenses and abandon unprofitable services. This prudent outlook on the market could make them look more favourably at the formation of alliances.

During the last sixty years, Arab Bank followed a policy directed towards the preservation of shareholders' equity. At the end of 1989, the net equity to assets ratio of the Group reached 6.11% in comparison to 5.67% at the end of 1988. The capital adequacy ratio for the group measured, according to the Basle Committee of the Bank of International Settlements, 14.3%.

In the closing decade of the twentieth century, the Arab Bank is embarking upon a new phase in its mission. While continuing to play a leading role in the economies of the Arab World, we are responding to the expectations of the societies in which we operate. The development of our services and products is well under way and we are enhancing our international presence so as to meet our customers' needs even more effectively.

The key to our success during our long years of service has been simple and clear. Qualities such as hard work, loyalty to customers, and perseverance have always been our motto, and we are certain that these assets will enable us to meet the new challenges of the nineties successfully and to reach new horizons.

Khalid Shoman
Deputy Chairman

Balance sheet as of 31st December 1989 and 1988

Assets	31/12/1989 JD ('000)	31/12/1988 JD ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	2,813,507	2,436,448
Securities	394,620	364,627
Loans and advances	2,344,626	1,586,975
Customers' liability on acceptances	54,964	45,538
Investments	46,669	32,182
Premises and equipment	30,944	20,859
Accrued interest receivable	77,914	51,381
Other assets	40,368	32,872
Total Assets	**6,303,612**	**4,570,882**
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	1,256,245	824,333
Total	**7,559,857**	**5,395,215**

Liabilities	31/12/1989 JD ('000)	31/12/1988 JD ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	[illegible]	4,226,231
Acceptances	[illegible]	45,538
Accrued interest payable	[illegible]	43,397
Dividends and remunerations	[illegible]	7,716
Total Liabilities	[illegible]	**4,302,882**
Shareholders' Equity		
Capital	22,000	22,000
Statutory reserve	[illegible]	22,000
General reserve	[illegible]	120,000
Voluntary reserve	[illegible]	44,000
Total Shareholders' Equity	**252,500**	**208,000**
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	[illegible]	**4,570,882**
Guarantees and letters of credit	[illegible]	824,333
Total	[illegible]	**5,395,215**

Khalid A.H. Shoman
Deputy Chairman

[illegible] A.H. Shoman
[illegible]

Profit and Loss Statement for the years 1989 and 1988

Revenue	31/12/1989 JD ('000)	31/12/1988 JD ('000)
Interest revenue	607,708	349,074
Less: Interest expense	503,958	287,976
Net interest revenue	103,750	61,098
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	22,790	18,228
Foreign exchange trading	19,487	11,968
Other revenue	8,320	6,431
Total non-interest revenue	50,597	36,627
Total Revenue	**154,347**	**97,725**
Expenses		
Salaries and staff benefits	40,315	28,148
Depreciation of premises and equipment	3,620	2,442
Other expenses and provisions	41,838	25,737
Total Expenses	**85,773**	**56,327**
Net income before income taxes	68,574	41,398
Income taxes	16,319	6,282
Net Income	**52,255**	**35,116**
Appropriations		
Net income	52,255	35,116
Retained earnings brought forward	—	19,600
Total	**52,255**	**54,716**
Allocations		
To general reserve	34,500	40,000
To voluntary reserve	10,000	7,000
Proposed cash dividends	7,700	7,700
Directors' remuneration	55	16
Retained earnings carried forward	—	—

Statement of Sources and Applications of Funds for the years ended 31 December 1989 and 1988

Funds provided	31/12/1989 JD ('000)	31/12/1988 JD ('000)
Net income	52,255	35,116
Depreciation of premises and equipment	3,620	2,442
Total funds provided from operations	**55,875**	**37,558**
Increase in deposits and other accounts	1,678,765	1,296,648
Total funds provided	**1,734,640**	**1,334,206**
Funds applied		
Dividends and remunerations paid	7,716	7,714
Increase in:		
Cash in hand and at banks	[illegible]	[illegible]
Securities	29,993	38,241
Loans and advances	757,651	604,823
Investments	14,487	9,308
Premises and equipment	13,795	5,514
Other assets	34,929	7,715
Total funds applied	**1,734,640**	**1,334,206**

Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Arab Bank

We have examined the balance sheet of Arab Bank (a Jordanian public shareholding limited company) as of December 31, 1989 and 1988 and the related statements of income and statements of source and applications of funds for the years ended December 31, 1989 and 1988.

We conducted our audit in accordance with international auditing guidelines and included such tests of the accounting records and of the system of internal control and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

The Bank maintains proper accounting records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith. Furthermore, the financial data presented by the Board of Directors [illegible] with those records.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arab Bank as of December 31, 1989 and 1988 and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then ended, in accordance with international accounting standards, and we recommend that the General Assembly approve these financial statements.

Saba & Co.
Amman, Jordan.
January 28, 1990.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS'

60th Annual Report

For the year ended 31st December 1989, submitted to the General Assembly of Shareholders at the Annual Meeting held at the Bank's Head Office Building, Shmeisani, Amman, at 10 a.m., Friday, 30th March 1990.

Dear Shareholders,

Since its establishment, sixty years ago, Arab Bank has always been a vital element in the economy of the Arab world. This institution will continue to be faithful to its mission and its clients. It has also constantly proved its ability to adapt to different and changing conditions.

The year 1989 was a new chapter in the successful history of the Bank. We are glad to present to you our sixtieth annual report which briefly surveys the working conditions and the most important financial results of the Bank.

General Economic Situation

The world economy was negatively affected in 1989 by slow economic growth, a general rise in inflation and a continuous gap in trade balances among industrialised nations. The central banks in the industrialised world continued the restrictive policies they had started in 1988, which were reflected in higher interest rates in 1989. The risk of uncontrolled inflation receded in most of the industrialised countries. Our institution has interacted positively with those changes and succeeded in developing its revenues in general and net interest in particular. Arab Bank was able to capitalize on the general rise in interest rates, and to manage its funds very efficiently.

The economies of the developing nations did not undergo any radical changes in 1989. The prices of raw materials remained relatively low, and the impact of their external debts continued to affect the balance of payments of those countries. There were some high-level attempts to solve the international debt crisis, the most important being that of Mr. Nicholas Brady. He called upon commercial banks to lend fresh money while reducing the value of the current debts by replacing them with long-term bonds. These bonds would be guaranteed internationally and would be issued at a nominal value of less than the face value of the debt or at fixed interest rates lower than prevailing market rates. The debt problems of each country have still to be resolved separately under the auspices and through the cooperation of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Mexico submitted a plan in accordance with the new proposals which was met with positive responses from some of the commercial banks. Even though our portfolio on sovereign debts is relatively small, we are following all those changes closely in order to choose the ideal alternatives for our Bank. Necessary and sufficient allowances were made to face any possible loss of debts.

Our branches and sister institutions operating in the Arab oil-producing countries showed favourable results due to the econom c stability there. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) succeeded in controlling their output while demand remained firm and within reasonable levels, which reinforced the prices on the international market. The price of oil in 1989 fluctuated between U.S.$ 15.8 and 21.77 per barrel, and is expected to remain steady during 1990.

As far as the economic situation in Jordan is concerned, the efforts to stabilize the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar have shown satisfactory results. The official rate closed at U.S.$ 1.481 to the dinar on 31st December 1989 compared to U.S.$ 2.096 on 31st December 1988. Moreover, attempts to reduce the deficit in the budget and the balance of payments were intensified. The Government was also successful in rescheduling most of Jordan's external debts. We hope that all these measures will have a positive impact on the general economic situation and will strengthen and stabilize the exchange rate of the dinar. The Bank's performance in Jordan in 1989 was good; the assets and revenues of the branches operating there grew at a higher rate than the devaluation of the dinar. In addition, the Bank slightly reinforced its share in the Jordanian market to 32% of total available deposits.

FINANCIAL REVIEW
Arab Bank Group

Overview

The reporting currencies of the two main entities of the Group, Arab Bank and Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. are the Jordanian dinar and the Swiss franc. The exchange rate of both declined against the U.S. dollar, the reporting currency of the Group, at the end of 1989. The Jordanian dinar decline of 29.3% against the U.S.$ slightly pressured down the Group's balance sheet U.S.$ total as well as almost all assets and liabilities. Despite this mild negative growth, Arab Bank Group achieved extremely good results in the year.

In 1989, Arab Bank's share of net income in associated companies, which are 20% to 50% owned, was recorded in the income statement according to the equity method. Net income of 1988 was adjusted accordingly to provide the users of the financial statements with meaningful and comparable data. The format of the disclosed financial statements was slightly modified in conformity with the International Accounting Standard «Proposed Statement on Disclosures in the Financial Statement of Banks».

Results of Operations

Arab Bank Group turned in another strong performance for the fiscal year that ended December 31, 1989. Net income rose by 13.0% to U.S.$ 98.1 million for the first time in the history of the Bank. Both net interest revenue and non-interest revenue grew substantially while the increase in non-interest expenses remained contained within the normal operational needs of the Bank.

Net Income

Net income after tax increased to U.S.$ 98.1 million from U.S.$ 86.8 million in the previous year. The 13.0% rise in net income of U.S.$ 11.3 million resulted in general from high net interest revenue and a better return from associated companies as well as a limited increase in operational expenses.

Both the return on assets and return on equity ratios improved significantly over those of the previous year as shown below:

Profitability	1989 %	1988 %
Net income/Total assets	0.76	[illegible]
Net income/Shareholders' equity	12.38	[illegible]

This strong performance can be attributed to increased efforts to enhance efficiency and strengthen the Group's overall operations.

Net Interest Revenue

Interest revenue reached U.S.$ 994.9 million in comparison with U.S.$ 797.9 million in 1988. Net interest revenue increased by U.S.$ 27.5 million (18.7%) to reach U.S.$ 174.8 million compared with U.S.$ 147.3 million in 1988. The Bank's continuous efforts to enhance its holdings of quality loans coupled with successful management of its interest rates [illegible] contributed to the [illegible] revenue.

Non-Interest Revenue

Commission, income from foreign exchange trading and other revenue increased by U.S.$ 7.6 million in all to reach U.S.$ 126.5 million in 1989 compared to U.S.$ 118.9 million in 1988. A comparative analysis of non-interest revenue components is presented below:

Revenue (In U.S.$ million)	1989	1988	Variance
Commission	47.2	51.4	(4.2)
Foreign exchange	32.8	28.7	[illegible]
Other revenue	46.5	38.8	[illegible]
Total non-interest	126.5	118.9	7.6

Other revenue contributed U.S.$ 7.7 million to the increase in non-interest revenue, mostly representing the improvement in the return from Arab Bank's associated companies. Commission declined by U.S.$ 4.2 million and 8.1% during 1989, reflecting the fall in the exchange value of the Jordanian dinar and the moderate trade activities by our customers.

Expenses

Expenses rose to U.S.$ 155.4 million, an increase of U.S.$ 11.4 million (7.9%) over 1988. The Group expenses consisted of the following items:

Expenses (In U.S.$ million)	1989	1988	Variance
Staff expenses	73.3	71.3	2.0
Depreciation	6.6	6.1	0.5
Other expenses and provisions	75.5	66.6	8.9
Total	155.4	144.0	11.4

The U.S.$ 73.3 million in staff costs represent 47.2% of total expenses compared to U.S.$ 71.3 million and 49.5% of total expenses in 1988.

Other expenses and provisions increased 13.5% to U.S.$ 75.5 million. This included overhead expenses as well as bad debts written off and an addition to the doubtful debt allowance.

Shareholders' Equity

Despite the serious decline of the Jordanian dinar in 1989, shareholders' equity rose by U.S.$ 32.0 million to U.S.$ 792.5 million. U.S.$ 84.1 million was capitalized and retained from the distributable income, and an additional U.S.$ 19.5 million (S.Fr. 30 million) was transferred to shareholders' equity from undisclosed taxed reserves at Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd., and accordingly carried forward in the Group's consolidated statements. Translation adjustments negatively affected shareholders' equity by U.S.$ 68.4 million. With the stabilization of the Jordanian dinar, it is expected that the impact of translation on equity will be minimal in the coming years and the Group will continue its successful and concrete build-up of its capital base. The 4.2% growth of total shareholders' equity coupled with a decline of 3.2% in total assets had significantly improved equity ratios. Shareholders' equity to total assets ratio rose to 6.1% from 5.7% in 1988.

Deposits

The total balance of deposits and other accounts declined to U.S.$ [illegible] million from U.S.$ 12,434.8 million in 1988, [illegible] U.S.$ 449.9 million or a 3.6% decline [illegible] of currency translation [illegible] local currencies [illegible] growth [illegible] main components of deposits and other accounts [illegible] customers deposits which are characterized by their stability.

Assets

Total assets slightly receded to U.S.$ 12,978.7 million from U.S.$ [illegible] million, representing a 3.2% decrease. Although the end of year figure is below target in U.S.$ terms, the Group's consolidated total assets were [illegible] by the Bank's management. Efforts during 1989 were, in general, directed towards improving profitability and assets quality.

Loan Portfolio

Loans and advances net of doubtful debt allowance rose to U.S.$ [illegible] million from U.S.$ [illegible] million, an increase of U.S.$ [illegible] million ([illegible]%). Positive development in the Group's holding in loans and advances was a major strategic objective of the management in 1989. The Bank has continued to expand its traditional lending practices as well as the marketing of new products mainly to private borrowers.

Securities and Investments

The securities portfolio, which is composed mainly from [illegible] government bonds and other securities, continued to decrease for the second consecutive year. Securities held at the end of December 1989 totaled U.S.$ 735.[illegible] million compared to U.S.$ 916.2 million in 1988.

Liquidity

Maintaining high liquidity ratios is a major element in the Group's prudent and conservative policies. At the end of 1989, the liquidity ratio (cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities to total assets) was [illegible]%, slightly lower than the 1988 figure of [illegible]%. Total cash in hand and at banks was U.S.$ [illegible] against U.S.$ [illegible] in 1988.

ARAB BANK PLC

Overview

Net income after tax in 1989 advanced to J.D. 52.3 million from J.D. 35.1 million. Arab Bank's net income expressed in U.S.$ increased by [illegible]%.

Total assets rose to J.D. [illegible] million from J.D. 4,570.9 million. The 37.9% growth is inflated by the significant decline of the Jordanian dinar against most other currencies. After eliminating the impact of this decline, growth in total assets receded to [illegible]%.

Results of Operations

Total revenue of the Bank grew to J.D. 154.3 million from J.D. 97.7 million in 1988. The J.D. 56.6 million and 57.9% increase in revenue derived from growth in all revenue components, most significantly in net interest revenue.

The following table depicts the changes in the 1989 revenues over those of 1988.

Revenue (In J.D. million)	1989	1988	Variance
Net interest revenue	103.7	61.1	42.6
Commission	22.8	18.2	4.6
Foreign exchange	19.5	12.0	7.5
Other revenue	8.3	6.4	1.9
Total revenue	154.3	97.7	56.6

Net interest revenue composed [illegible]% of total revenue in 1989 compared to 62.5% in 1988, reducing the weight of non-interest revenue to [illegible]% from 37.5%.

Total operating expenses advanced to J.D. [illegible] million from J.D. 56.3 million. Most of the J.D. 29.4 million increase [illegible] over 1988 reflects the decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar. Staff costs reached J.D. 40.3 million or 47.0% of operating expenses. The remaining 53.0% of operating expenses comes from J.D. [illegible] million depreciation, J.D. 41.8 million of general expenses, which included the bad debts written off and an addition to the doubtful debt allowance.

Equity

Shareholders' equity rose by J.D. [illegible] million to J.D. 252.5 million as a result of net income capitalization.

The number of shares remained at [illegible] in 1989. The Board of Directors has proposed to the General Assembly a one to one stock split [illegible] 1991. Shareholders' equity to total assets ratio declined to [illegible]% from 4.6% as a result of the rapid growth in assets due to the decline of the Jordanian dinar.

Deposits

Total deposits reached J.D. 5,916.9 million compared to J.D. 4,266.2 million in 1988, representing an increase of J.D. 1,650.7 million (38.7%). After the impact of the decline of the Jordanian dinar has been eliminated, the growth of deposits is reduced to [illegible]%.

Liquidity and Asset Management

The structure of the Bank's assets was slightly altered in 1989 to give more weight to prime quality risk assets. The Bank's assets in 1989 and 1988 were structured as follows:

Assets	1989 %	1988 %
Cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities	58.8	61.3
Loans and advances	37.2	34.7
All other assets	4.0	4.0
Total assets	100.0	100.0

The Bank maintained its traditional high liquidity in 1989. The liquidity ratio was 58.8% compared to 61.3% in 1988, the slight decline being due mainly to a 47.7% increase in the loan portfolio.

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Staff

Our ability to succeed in a world of rapid changes is based primarily on our staff's skills, loyalty, and dedication. At the end of 1989, Arab Bank had 3,500 employees in comparison to 3,300 at the end of the previous year, excluding several thousands working with our affiliates and sister institutions. We are proud that more than 59% of our staff force hold university degrees. The continuous upgrading of the qualifications of all personnel is one of the major policies of Arab Bank top management. Recently, emphasis has been given to high level management training and specialized banking services. Arab Bank training centres as well as external academic and banking institutions are utilized in achieving our staff development goals.

Services and New Products

In order to satisfy the demands of its customers for investment-related services, Arab Bank has formed a Private Banking Department in London. This Department offers a comprehensive range of investment management and advisory services to complement existing banking activities in the Bank and at other institutions of the Group. In conjunction with the development of its private banking activities, Arab Bank, through its London regional office, has created the ABL Internationl Fund Ltd., A Guernsey-based "mutual fund" with, initially, three investment sub-classes; a U.S. Dollar Money Fund, a Managed Currency Fund and an International Bond Fund. The Fund is managed by Arab Bank Fund Managers (Guernsey) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Arab Bank.

To accommodate Islamic investors, Arab Bank has also established a wholly owned trading company in Guernsey called ABL Traders Limited. This company will use investors' funds to trade in Islamically acceptable goods and to earn profits according to Murabaha principles.

Moreover, our main branch in New York has recently developed Islamic investment products which are directed towards financial institutions as well as customers willing to invest their money according to Islamic laws and regulations. Investment contracts to buy and sell metal and commodities for periods from one month up to two years are executed according to customers' instructions. These contracts were designed under the advice and supervision of the Islamic financial institutions concerned. Revenues resulting from such investments are not subjects to U.S. tax law for non-residents.

Automation

Arab Bank automation division intensified its efforts to utilize modern concepts in automation so as to serve the customers even more efficiently. Its efforts were also directed towards more productive allocation of resources as well as more timely and relevant managerial decisions. In 1989, Arab Bank Network of automated teller machine system was significantly expanded. Other efforts were also directed towards the modernization of Head Office as well as most branches' computer equipment. The development and installation of several software packages, including letters of credit, guarantees, and money transfer, were completed in 1989.

Both the Paris branch and C.B.U., Manama, completed the installation of the SWIFT communication system. Early in 1990, our customers in Jordan were introduced to dial-up banking services as a first step to the generalization of telephone banking to all our branches.

MANAGEMENT'S PLANS FOR 1990

Arab Bank's specific plans for 1990 include the following:

1- Asset Management

We will continue modifying and restructuring our application of funds so as to enhance our holdings of high yield assets within a framework of preset risk limits.

Accommodation of our customers' needs as well as the needs of the societies in which we operate will be a major constraint in achieving this goal. Maintaining Arab Bank's traditional high liquidity level will be another major factor affecting our asset management decisions.

2- Growth

During the period from January 1st. 1988 to December 31,1989, Arab Bank fund in Jordanian dinars increased by 95%. The coefficient of real growth for the last 36 years was approximately 8.5%. In 1990, Arab Bank will work to maintain its historical growth in real terms after eliminating inflationary factors.

3- Profitability

Profitability ratios of Arab Bank during the period 1985 to 1989 were in average as follows:

- Return on equity: 16.4%
- Return on assets: 0.78%

We will endeavour in the coming year to maintain profitability at the same level as in the previous years.

4- Customers' Services and New Products

In 1990, the Bank will continue its directed efforts to provide its customers with a new range of products and financial services to meet their needs more effectively. This will be achieved through steady efforts to develop staff qualifications, automation and geographical expansion. More specifically the Bank's plans include the following:

a- New Facilities

The Bank plans to open twelve new cash offices in Jordan, as well as new branches in:

Madrid — Spain, Almuhandesin — Cairo Brooklyn — New York, and Parramatta — Sydney.

b- Automation

The Bank plans to expand the applications of systems already developed for electronic signature verification letters of credit, guarantees, and automated mail handling facilities. Plans to develop new systems for travellers cheques, acceptances and discounted bills. The computer equipment in Lebanon will be up-graded. As far as modern decision-making systems are concerned, artificial intelligencia as well as management information systems and decision support systems will be utilized.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommends the appropriation of J.D.62,255,000 distributable income as follows:

- J.D. 44,500,000 to reserves.
- J.D. 7,700,000 cash dividend to the shareholders at J.D.0.7 per share (35% of the par value of J.D.10).
- J.D. 55,000 as remuneration to the Members of the Board of Directors.

Capital Increase

The Board of Directors also recommends the increase of Arab Bank capital to J.D.44 million. The increase of J.D.22 million will be transferred from the voluntary reserve. A one to one stock split is proposed by issuing an additional 2,200,000 shares to the shareholders of the General Assembly of 1991.

Finally, we take this opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude to our shareholders for their continuous support and assistance during the last four years. We would also like to extend our appreciation to our customers and depositors for the confidence they placed in us. A special note of thanks goes to our staff for their efforts without which the results in your hands would not have been possible.

ARAB BANK PLC
General Management
Amman, Jordan, P.O. Box 950544, 950545
Telephone 660115, 660131
Telex 23091 ARABNK JO
Facsimile 606793

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O. Box	Telephone	Telex	Facsimile
Main branches in the Arab countries					
Shmeisani, Amman	Jordan (45)	950546	660131	23094	670564
King Faisal St., Amman		68	638161	21230	637082
Manama	Bahrain (3)	395	255988	8232	210443
Riad Solh St., Beirut	Lebanon (10)	14-5285	810005	22893	809972 (ext. 221)
Tripoli		379	430111	41920	602383
Saida		199	724501	23661	722072 (ext. 242)
Sana'a	N. Yemen (3)	475	240922	2239	263187
Doha	Qatar (2)	172	437979	4202	410774
Abu Dhabi	U.A.E. (8)	875	334111	22257	336433
Al Maktoum, Dubai		11364	228845	46126	285974
Main offshore banking units					
Manama	Bahrain (1)	813	256398	8647	231640
Cairo	Egypt (4)	2006	746218	92716	746165
Singapore	Singapore (1)		5330055	22955	5322150
Main branches in Europe, U.S.A. and Asia					
Nicosia	Cyprus (5)	5700	457111	5717	457890
Paris	France (2)	319	43593434	642443	42890978
Athens	Greece (1)	30357	3255401	219922	3255519
Rome	Italy (1)	745	6840479	624161	6795601
Seoul	Korea (1)	1331	7570024	34180	7570124
London	U.K. (3)	138	3158500	887110	6007620
New York	U.S.A. (2)	5377	7159700	238770	5934632

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O. Box	Telephone	Telex	Facsimile
Representative offices					
Beijing (Peking)	China		5002255 (ext. 3510)	22739	5003275
Tokyo	Japan		5789388	32442	5789359
Sister institutions, subsidiaries and associated companies					
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	Zurich	5281	2657111	812276	2657330
	Geneva	863	7327336	27202	7322460
Arab Australia Ltd.	Sydney		2324133	120520	2215428
Finance Accountancy Mohassaba S.A.	Geneva	304	7326003	289220	7337229
Arab Bank (Austria) AG	Vienna	100	5134240	135313	51342409
Arab Tunisian Bank	Tunis	520	351155	14205	347270
Oman Arab Bank	Ruwi	5010	706265	3285	797736
Arab Bank Maroc	Casablanca	13810	223152	22942	275899
Arab National Bank	Riyadh	56921	4029000	402660	4027747
Nigeria-Arab Bank Ltd.	Lagos	12807	661955	21973	
UBAE Arab German Bank	Luxembourg	115	24481	2874	474888
	Frankfurt	102239	27150	414249	235471
Arabia Insurance Co.	Beirut	11-2127	363610	21016	

Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Hebron and Gaza Branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are temporarily closed and not allowed to function under the Israeli occupation.

ARAB BANK GROUP

Balance Sheet as of 31st December 1989 and 1988

Assets	31/12/1989 US$ ('000)	31/12/1988 US$ ('000)
Cash and due from banks	7,757,204	8,116,354
Investments and securities	735,265	916,150
Loans and advances	3,892,765	3,739,069
Customers' liability on acceptances	81,402	95,448
Investments in associated companies	242,332	213,193
Premises and equipment	67,585	63,749
Accrued interest receivable	115,391	107,695
Other assets	116,375	150,663
Total Assets	12,978,692	13,402,551
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	2,039,972	1,870,393
Total	15,018,664	15,272,944

Liabilities	31/12/1989 US$ ('000)	31/12/1988 US$ ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	11,964,890	12,434,520
Acceptances	81,402	95,448
Accrued interest payable	105,856	90,860
Proposed dividends	14,053	20,785
Total liabilities	12,166,201	12,642,023
Shareholders' Equity		
Capital	66,939	60,129
Statutory reserve	77,255	76,097
General reserve	478,205	409,115
Voluntary reserve	141,379	128,569
Reserves with associated companies	165,572	155,539
Retained earnings	3,429	558
Total	952,779	852,451
Translation adjustments	(160,288)	(91,923)
Total Shareholders' Equity	792,491	760,528
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	12,978,692	13,402,551
Guarantees and letters of credit	2,039,972	1,870,393
Total	15,018,664	15,272,944

Consolidated Income Statement for the years 1989 and 1988

Revenue	31/12/1989 US$ ('000)	31/12/1988 US$ ('000)
Interest revenue	994,908	797,921
Less: interest expense	820,137	650,649
Net interest revenue	174,771	147,272
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	47,210	51,365
Foreign exchange trading	32,750	23,675
Other revenue	46,535	36,829
Total non-interest revenue	126,495	112,869
Total Revenue	301,266	256,141
Expenses		
Salaries and staff benefits	78,237	71,322
Depreciation of premises and equipment	6,633	6,124
Other expenses and provisions	75,478	66,525
Total Expenses	155,378	143,971
Net income before income taxes	145,888	122,170
Income taxes	47,772	25,339
Net income	98,110	96,831
[illegible]		
Net income	98,110	96,831
Retained earnings brought forward	558	59,455
From undisclosed listed reserves -		
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	19,455	----
Total	118,123	146,286
Allocated to		
Statutory reserve	1,155	426
General reserve	73,090	106,921
Voluntary reserve	11,610	12,210
Reserves with associated companies	8,583	5,974
Proposed dividends	13,972	20,761
Directors' remuneration	31	34
Retained earnings carried forward	3,429	558

Statement of Sources and Applications of Funds For the years ended 31st December 1989 and 1988

Funds provided	31/12/1989 US$ ('000)	31/12/1988 US$ ('000)
Net income	98,110	96,831
Depreciation of premises and equipment	6,633	6,124
Total Funds provided from operations	104,743	92,955
Funds from undisclosed listed		
reserves - Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	19,455	----
Increase in :		
Deposits and other accounts	----	158,610
Capital	----	3,184
Decrease in :		
Cash and due from banks	329,150	172,552
Investments and securities	180,995	178,711
Premises and equipment	----	4,692
Other assets	26,789	20,752
Total funds provided	661,032	631,753
Funds applied		
Dividends and remunerations paid	20,795	26,840
Translation adjustments	68,365	91,923
Decrease in :		
Deposits and other accounts	455,034	----
Capital	3,184	----
Increase in :		
Loans and advances	93,696	493,015
Investments in associated companies	29,459	28,175
Premises and equipment	10,499	----
Total funds applied	661,032	631,759

Auditors' Report
[illegible] Arab Bank

We have examined the consolidated balance sheet of ARAB BANK [illegible] December 31, 1989 and 1988 and the related consolidated statement of income and consolidated statement of sources and applications of funds [illegible]. Our examination was made in accordance with international auditing guidelines and accordingly included such [illegible] records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Included in the financial statements [illegible] to a sister company and certain subsidiaries other auditors whose reports we have reviewed.

In our opinion, based upon our examination and the reports of other auditors, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arab Bank Group as of December 31, 1989 and 1988 and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then ended, in accordance with international accounting standards.

Saba & Co.
Amman, Jordan, January 26, 1990

ARAB BANK
WITH MORE THAN 100 BRANCHES AND AFFILIATES
[illegible]

هكذا في الأصل

Vivid scenes of oppression

By Dr. Nancy S. Pyle

The first part of this article appeared in Sunday's issue of the Jordan Times.

Having trained as an Islamic architectural historian I couldn't go to Jerusalem without a brief visit to the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque. While wandering around the courtyard I spotted an obviously American tour group. Unconsciously I found myself eavesdropping on their Israeli guide. She was warning them, "You must understand that you are now in the Arab section of Jerusalem. It is completely unsafe and you are surrounded by terrorists. Please visit the mosque quickly and get back to the safety of the bus." They all looked utterly petrified. Wouldn't you be too? I kept glancing around, trying to figure out what in heavens name the guide was referring to, a description that had no apparent relationship to what I had felt and seen. My Palestinian guide, a medical doctor trained in Europe, looked at me with a sheepish grin and said, "That's me she's talking about."

I was certainly not the typical American tourist in Jerusalem. I had crossed over from Jordan, rather than through Tel Aviv airport. I was staying at a modest hotel in East Jerusalem, not a five star hotel in West Jerusalem. I was trained as an Islamicist and I was meeting Palestinians. And yet I hoped I was approaching the issues of this divided city with an open mind.

Late one afternoon I had an appointment with the American consul general, Philip Wilcox. His office is in West Jerusalem. It was six and already dark outside by the time I left. The first two taxis I waved down refused to take me when they heard I wanted to go to the East. Then a pair of Israeli security policemen, submachine guns at the ready, came up and asked me what the trouble was. When I explained the problem they told me I shouldn't go to the East as it simply wasn't safe. Well, I certainly wasn't going to spend the night on that sidewalk. At last I found a taxi and hurried back to the American Colony, feeling ever so much safer on the "wrong" side of the green line.

What Geneva convention?

All universities on the West Bank have been closed for the last two years. That closure order was extended for three months while I was there. High schools open sporadically, and always in fear of interference and interruptions. I resented the fact that any meetings I had with university faculty and administrators were officially illegal. A small complaint compared to the collective punishment of denying a generation of Palestinian youths the right to education. I was as guilty as anyone. Why hadn't I spoken out long ago? How could this total affront to the guarantees of the Geneva convention be allowed to continue? I had come to the West Bank to see if there were any students competitive for entrance to Harvard. What an absurd agenda in light of the situation. And yet was it?

I have travelled all over the world, meeting with young men and women seeking higher education in the U.S. On the Pyle scale of motivation and determination, the Palestinians top the charts (with a second place award probably going to the Vietnamese). Even the closing of universities and intimidation of faculty is not going to prevent these people from getting an education. As a dean at Birzeit University remarked, "Education will be the only effective weapon to fight for our freedoms." It would not be an exaggeration to say these are the most impressive potential candidates in the Arab World. Schools are closed, books are banned, students are not free to travel from one village to another, and yet the system is still working. A Jesuit priest smuggles a girl from a refugee camp in Gaza in the trunk of his car so she can attend an illegal meeting of a class on English literature, part of Bethelehem University operating in exile.

Yes, Harvard will find competitive applicants on the West Bank.

Parties to remember

I was invited to a Palestinian home for dinner on the spur of the moment. My host had no time to alert his family I was coming. Upon our arrival the nine-year-old daughter greeted me with enthusiasm and her first question was, "Are you a reporter?" Obviously disappointed with my reply, I asked why she had hoped I was a journalist. "Because I have so much to tell." Many hours and conversations later I was numb. What kind of a childhood is it when kids that age have to beg for freedoms, have to go back and forth from home to school in constant fear of Israeli patrols, are allowed no collective extracurricular activities. ("They think if a group of us play basketball after school, we are a bunch of terrorists plotting an attack"). But the children's art hanging on the kitchen wall was the stuff of dreams. These children haven't been beaten. They still hope the world might one day deal them a better share.

Have you ever been invited out for dinner during a strike? It's unnerving to park on a totally dark and isolated street, stopping in front of a building seemingly dead. Guided only by matches, my hosts led me through an arcade and down a winding step. Several knocks and muffled conversations ensued, and the door swung open. I was to dine in the Philadelphia Restaurant, one of the finest in all of Jerusalem. Against all curfew restrictions the owner had opened the operation just to welcome me. Why had he taken such risks? To what did I owe the incredible hospitality and memorable meal? "My dear lady, you care enough to ask the hard questions. We cannot ask for more than that."

PATIENT WAITING ... Arabs wait patiently at a River Jordan crossing. Regulations imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities at the other side of the bridge are generally seen by most observers as clearly designed at making it as difficult as possible for Palestinians to leave and enter the occupied territories (File photo)

Underground education

If universities are closed by government decree, this also means it is illegal for any faculty members to hold classes, even off-campus. To many teachers and students around the globe, such a situation would be looked upon as a welcome, well-deserved vacation. To a Palestinian, it is merely a challenge. The motivation of these people to continue their formal learning is unparalleled. They are not free to travel within the region without written permission, university campuses are closed and guarded by Israeli security forces, and one third of the books in the libraries of West Bank schools have been banned (Is a first year biology high school textbook really a threat to national security?). It is illegal to meet in a group, for any reason, in any place. As schools are closed, there is no tuition money coming in to pay the faculty salaries.

And yet, an underground educational network is thriving. Physics labs are being set up in private kitchens. I visited a computer lab in the basement stairwell of a building nearly in ruins. Teachers told of burying banned books in their gardens, then digging them up to give a class. Scholars meet surreptitiously, never in the same place twice. Students take life-threatening risks to get to a class. Regular lectures are impossible, intensive seminars the order of the day. Faculty told me the quality of work has soared since the closure began. But since universities are technically closed, it is therefore theoretically impossible for classes to be completed, and thus a student who finishes a degree cannot have a diploma that is accepted as a legal document by the Israeli government. A less motivated population would have long since given up, but these people are just getting stronger. One dean apologised for not being able to give me a gift, all he had to offer were an impressive stack of scholarly journals, all of which had been published illegally. Is it necessary for a people to be at war to lose all their basic freedoms, before they appreciate the importance of training a mind?

Was it already time for me to make arrangements to return to Jordan? A Palestinian academician asked if I would do him a favour. "Please, could you go to the bridge by an ordinary Palestinian taxi? Don't hire a separate car for yourself." Of course I complied and was curious to know what lay behind his request.

At dawn I climbed into one of the old stretch Mercedes that make up the taxi fleet of the West Bank. There is barely room for seven passengers and the driver. By the time we had toured East Jerusalem picking up passengers, always with teary farewells to relatives still in their bedclothes, we were ten adults, innumerable children on laps, and an assortment of bundles that would rival hand luggage on a Nigerian Airways flight.

As the sun rose in front of us, we made our way down through the hills, past monumental settlements that must have grated as harsh psychological insults to my fellow passengers, and on to the floor of the Jordan Valley. Approximately a half mile before reaching the immigration post for the bridge, we came to a roadblock cum passport control. There were ten cars in front of us and we gradually inched our way forward, a time-consuming procedure involving the search of all luggage, all passengers, all cars. An hour passed and we had made it to the third position in line. Hopes soared... but all too soon. Suddenly other taxis were being waved around the queue and in front of us. We were retreating further and further back from the checkpost.

When my sense of fair play could stand it no longer, I asked if anyone in the car spoke English and could explain to me what was going on. An elderly gentleman, with a look of resignation, told me those cars were being driven by Palestinians who collaborated with the Israelis. In return for information on their fellow Palestinians, they were allowed to go to the front of the line, thus enabling them to charge a higher fare to their passengers. I was seething, not for myself or for the Jordanian driver waiting for me on the other side. I was furious that these innocent people had no recourse. At last the gentleman spokesperson asked me, "You have an American passport? Perhaps you could try to help us."

I was out of the car like a shot and marched up to the Israeli guards to demand an explanation. At first they tried to convince me that the cars going ahead were all U.N. officials. A ridiculous excuse when we both knew that all U.N. officials on the West Bank travel in white cars with a big blue U.N. painted on the side. "No, I said. "Those are taxis just like the one I am in. The only difference is that they get to go through and we don't." By now the guards realised I was carrying a U.S. passport and they changed their tune entirely. "Madam, you are an American. We are terribly sorry for this inconvenience. We will arrange for another car to take you to the bridge." But I retorted, "I don't want another car, I am in that taxi and I want it to get its deserved place in line." They were livid and told me that if I insisted upon travelling with "those people" then I could bloody well wait. And wait I did, another two hours. Yes, now I knew why my friend in Jerusalem had asked me to take the taxi.

'Seminared to death'

A renowned professor from Nablus came to visit me at my hotel in Jerusalem late one evening. Because of curfews and strikes it had proven impossible for me to travel to his town, but he made the extraordinary effort to get to me. He came in search of more opportunities for his most gifted students. He stayed and talked late into the night about Palestinian dreams.

"We are the pet of leftist intellectuals and international agencies. They love to champion our cause. They love to host elaborate gatherings and issue strident papers about the injustices we have encountered. But really, they are all very long on rhetoric, very short on action. We, the people of Palestine, have been seminared to death."

I hope these notes of one traveller to the West Bank won't add to that useless rhetoric. For all of us who believe in the right of every man and woman to an education, American, Israeli and Arab alike, we must collectively find solutions to this morally unacceptable situation.

Dr. Nancy S. Pyle is associate director of the Harvard Institute for International Development.

Wonder bread without wheat

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — It sounds like a claim from the corniest type of television advertisement, but food scientist Morton Satin, inventor of the world's first loaf of wheatless bread, claims his product really does have more flavour. Far more importantly, he says, the new foodstuff could have wide-reaching implications for developing countries whose farming economy are being wrecked by a flood of cheap wheat from rich grain-producing nations.

In the past 25 years, wheat has taken over from indigenous staples in many parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The reason? Wheat makes bread — the ultimate convenience food. "Bread is convenient, easily transportable, quick to prepare and long-lasting," said Satin, chief of the Agricultural Industries Service at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), a United Nations agency based in Rome. "It also confers status on consumers in many countries: bread is for city-dwellers rather than country cousins."

Wheat has the added advantage of being cheap — far more so than the cassava, millet, corn and sorghum grown in most tropical countries. The major grain-producing nations of Australia, the United States, Canada and France unload their surpluses at knock-down prices on the developing world, at what Satin calls "a political price."

"It started out as food aid, and then once the dependency was created, trade took over at heavily subsidised prices," Satin said. "As a result, these tropical developing countries are faced with a grave situation. They have effectively been weaned onto food products that are based on agricultural crops they do not grow... It has completely destroyed their potential for agricultural development. In many cases, farmers have stopped growing local crops except at subsistence level. The market place has been quite simply eroded."

Figures published by the FAO show that in the 20 years between 1961 and 1981 the consumption of wheat in tropical developing countries grew by 3 per cent, while that of indigenous roots and tubers fell by 0.5 per cent, and that despite a high population increase. Thirty eight of these nations consume more than 100,000 tons each of imported wheat every year. Of these, nine nations consume more than one million tons. Seven of the world's 15 largest wheat-flour mills are in countries where wheat is not grown — in Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Nigeria, Yemen and Ivory Coast.

Determined to try to break this cycle, Satin set about inventing the unthinkable — a loaf of bread made with no wheat at all. "I tried to think of a way of doing away with wheat without doing away with bread," he explained. "I figured that if I could make bread with indigenous crops, there would no longer be any need to import wheat. The idea was to go back and try to make bread as though wheat had never been discovered. It wasn't that easy; wheat has been around for six of seven thousand years!"

Months of experiments followed, most of them at weekends in the kitchen of Satin's apartment in Rome. Long years as a top executive in the multi-billion dollar bread-making industry helped Canadian-born Satin, who worked for several major companies before joining the FAO. So too did his experience cooking in restaurants as a youngster, to pay his way through college.

"That taught me to be highly organised in the kitchen," he said. "I'm very quick and methodical, but I don't like anyone around me while I'm cooking." The first problem was to reproduce the viscous quality of wheat-gluten, a protein which has the ability to trap gases resulting from fermentation and thus give a light-textured bread. The addition of xanthan gum — an additive widely used as a thickener in the food industry — had the desired effect, but Satin was not satisfied. Xanthan gum is a costly product not manufactured in the developing world.

"I wanted to replace xanthan gum with something that was easily obtained in the tropics, something cheap and universal," he said. "It did not look as though there was anything, and then I had the very simple idea of using starch, of boiling some of the cassava flour in water to produce a starch gel which would have the elastic properties of wheat gluten. The bread proofed perfectly."

Satin has now refined his formula so that bread can be made from virtually any indigenous crop — rice, millet, corn, soybeans, yams or sorghum, as well as the cassava which he first tried. The sorghum flour bread tasted bitter at first, but the addition of a small amount of salt solved the problem. Cassava bread is low in protein, but by adding soybean or chick-pea flour the nutrition levels were boosted to a point where they were as high or higher than for wheat-flour bread.

As for taste, Satin swears cassava bread is more appetizing than wheat-flour bread. "Its flavour is really wonderful, far better than normal bread in my opinion. It's bland but slightly sweet, the ideal accompaniment to anything. It also stays fresh longer, up to 8 or 9 days."

It is early days to assess the dietary implications of re-introducing indigenous staples — or any harm that may have been done by feeding people on wheat, a product their fathers and forefathers had never eaten. "At the moment we just don't have that kind of clinical information, but the main dietary implication, and the most dramatic one, is that wheat is a product that is available today but may not be tomorrow," Satin said.

Three particular cases illustrate his point. Nigeria, which tried to break its wheat-dependency by banning all wheat imports in 1987 has suffered food shortages as a result. FAO officials also suspect there has been wide-scale smuggling from neighbouring countries. In Zambia, the government has warned wheat stocks will run out by the beginning of April at the latest. Lack of sufficient foreign currency reserves means there is no prospect of importing further supplies. In Cuba meanwhile, traditional free supplies of surplus wheat from the USSR look set to stop soon. For the first time, the Havana government is faced with the prospect of buying wheat from Canada.

One major benefit of cutting wheat imports will be to give a new market value to local staples, Satin said: "It's a simple case of supply and demand, and at the moment there is just no market. Indonesia and Thailand both have a large excess production of cassava. At home there is no market, so it is sold in pellet form to the European Community at very low prices for cattle fodder."

The governments in Indonesia and Thailand have already given the go-ahead for pilot projects involving Satin's wheatless bread. Talks are also under way with Cuba, Jamaica, Nigeria and Zambia.

Satin, just back from an African tour to promote his invention, declares the response "very enthusiastic." "In several countries we have demonstrated the technique to bakers and millers and given advice on how to convert current milling capacity to local crops," he said. "Obviously our efforts have to go hand in hand with those of the governments who have to back us up with policies. Otherwise the problem would always remain that imported wheat is cheaper."

One resounding vote of confidence has come from an unexpected quarter, in the undustrialised world. Sufferers of celia disease — an illness caused by an allergy to wheat-gluten which causes digestion problems and sometimes death — have flooded his office with requests for recipes of his wonder wheatless bread. "These people have to have gluten-free diet for life, which means no wheat products at all," he noted. "Last year the Canadian Celiac Association invited me to present a paper on my new bread and it was a great success. It was the last thing I had on my mind...but I am delighted to have been able to help."

Satin has now refined his formula so that bread can be made from virtually any indigenous crop — rice, millet, corn, soybeans, yams or sorghum, as well as the cassava which he first tried. The sorghum flour bread tasted bitter at first, but the addition of a small amount of salt solved the problem. Cassava bread is low in protein, but by adding soybean or chick-pea flour the nutrition levels were boosted to a point where they were as high or higher than for wheat-flour bread.

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E. German politician slams proposed mark exchange rate

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — The general secretary of East Germany's Christian Democrats broke ranks with his patrons in Bonn Sunday, describing West Germany's planned exchange rate for currency union as "unreasonable and intolerable."

West Germany said Saturday East German funds would be exchanged at a rate of two to tone in favour of the German marks, apart from the first 2,000 marks of each citizen's savings which would be swapped at par.

"I personally consider such a method to be unreasonable and intolerable for East German citizens," Martin Kirchner, general secretary of the Christian Democrats (CDU), told reporters before coalition talks with the Social Democrats (SPD).

He said the CDU, which won East Germany's election two weeks ago with backing from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, wanted to see salaries and pensions exchanged at one to one because earnings were in any case 40 per cent lower than in the West.

"I cannot allow this to be halved again," he said.

Acting SPD leader Markus Meckel said before going into the exploratory coalition talks that he backed this view and would make it a condition for entering a coalition.

"One to one is our strategy, no question," Meckel said.

The two parties are striving to sketch the outlines of a coalition ahead of the newly-elected parliament's first session Thursday.

Karl Otto Poehl, head of West Germany's influential central bank, Bundesbank, had said the central bank had proposed that East Germans only get one West German mark for every two units of their own currency.

He said the Bundesbank suggested the more favourable rate of one-to-one for savings accounts up to 2,000 East German marks per person.

The concession was made to smaller savers because of promises by Khol during the recent election campaign in East Germany, he said.

"I think we have to honour this," Poehl told reporters at a meeting of European Community finance officials at Ashford Castle in the village of Cong in western Ireland.

Poehl outlined the Bundesbank recommendations in a recent letter to Kohl. The government has not announced a conversion rate.

The money rate has been a key part of discussions about creating a monetary union between the two central European states. Once the economies are merged, the strong West German mark will become the only currency in circulation.

A two-to-one conversion rate would mean that the salaries of East German workers would be sliced in half. Wages of, say, 300 East German marks would shrink to 150 in the Western units.

But Poehl said the rate would be "favourable for the competitiveness of (East Germany), otherwise unemployment will go up very strongly."

"It is better to start at a rather low level and then try to ... increase wages according to the increase in productivity, which I *think will be very strong,*" he said.

"It would be a misconception to start the other way around... with a relatively high level of wages, which have to be paid in (West German) marks in the future," he said.

He said the exchange rate "doesn't mean that you have to cut wages in half... and that will stay forever."

Moscow tries to block exports

MOSCOW (AP) — The list seems endless. From car batteries to caviar, mushrooms to electric wire, bicycles to cooking oil, cameras to refrigerators, the Soviet Union is trying to block the export of practically all consumer goods from the deficit-ridden country.

Tyres and spare parts for vehicles, furs and coffee, all meat and its by-products, fish, eggs, canned fish and nuts, honey and sugar, cereals, confectionaries, linen and other fabrics would have to stay at home.

Household electric appliances, vacuum cleaners, washing and sewing machines, construction materials, spices and radio equipment are barred from export as well.

"These are extraordinary, emergency measures needed to stabilise the consumer market," Valery Draganov, deputy head of the government's Customs Authority, said of the new restrictions.

The clampdown on exports, announced by Draganov in Izvestia Friday evening, was made necessary by chronic shortages of consumer supplies and is likely to appeal to Soviets who spend hours standing in lines at shops where most of the shelves are empty.

But for those who plan to go abroad for business or pleasure, the announcement was a bombshell.

The government severely restricts the amount of convertible currency Soviet citizens are permitted to take out of the country. Most are permitted to carry from $30 to $200, depending on the length of their stay abroad and the type of trip they are making.

Many Soviets customarily pack food or consumer goods, either to sell for currency they can spend abroad or merely to preserve what limited funds they have.

Draganov said the new restrictions, which apply to foreigners as well as Soviets, will remain in effect at least through 1990.

"The consumer market is becoming more and more naked," Draganov complained. "The situation is becoming even more complex since we witness an increased activity of mafia groups, which pilfer deficient industrial and food supplies straight out of the 'back door' and then (send them) abroad."

"We had to stop this mass export of commodities immediately," he added.

At Chop, a border crossing station in the western Ukraine, some 350 Soviet tourists have recently imposed a self-styled blockade on the Tisa customs *office, "demanding restrictions* on export of excessive food supplies and mass consumption goods," Draganov said.

He said order was restored in Chop only after police intervention, and customs officials confiscated 200 sets of bedclothes, 20 bicycles, six gasoline-powered saws and other goods from travellers.

"They are trying to bring out through Tisa virtually everything one can think of: match boxes and mixers, canned products and electric drills, sausages, cheese and buckets, mousetraps and electric irons, butter and toys, socks and linen, gloves and metalwork equipment, rice and sugar, chocolate and toothpaste, black pepper and tableware," Draganov said.

"Notice that these goods disappear very quickly from the shelves of our shops," he added.

National television recently showed a huge warehouse filled with TV sets and other goods it said were confiscated from Polish tourists.

Draganov said the restrictions would not apply to purchases made in Soviet hard-currency stores or to organisations authorised to conduct international trade.

He acknowledged that the export controls alone would not end the country's chronic shortages but said the step was aimed at "those who see tourism just from its commercial side, who have only one aim: to improve their trade and financial affairs, to get hold of foreign currency, buy deficient commodities and sell these here, charging an exhorbitant price."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 2, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until midday be sure you do nothing that could take away the support and the backing that you either have or anticipate. Interesting and unusual benefits of a practical nature arise tonight.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) New interests and activities of all kinds can be the most productive means by which you utilise this day to its fullest excellent potential.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider how you can best join with persons of vision in the days ahead to have considerably more of what you regard as the good things of life.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some partners of outsiders who have made a prosperous life are now in the mood to extend to you the information just how it can be done by you also.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A whole new and inspired stance for making your usual occupation opens the way for you to be more successful at your daily activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are highly articulate, now apply the things you most enjoy and the persons with whom you like to share their company so arrange new amusements.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider how you can best make your home a more exciting and harmonious place to be at this time and start action to produce this effect.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Making plans and visits relative to doing the things you appreciate the most are best to put into motion today. Make lists of things to do today with friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider the various practical plans to benefit you have is good for you have excellent judgement today just how to increase your assets.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Many new and expansive conditions are most likely to come up so that you can view your future with truly prophetic insight so let this come forth.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your hunches are most accurate now if you will be still and listen to your powerful perceptions and you would be wise to follow them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Partners and friends join with acquaintances and associates now in seeing your best points and giving you can progress if you get them together.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your surroundings can be very much improved by your taking a good look at them and then using your special skill to put this into effect.

Shock economic therapy — a norm in Latin America

MONTREAL (R) — Shock thearapy is becoming almost routine in Latin America as newly-elected leaders bulldoze drastic economic reforms through before opposition has time to mobilise, say delegates at the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) there.

But some Latin American analysts are concerned that government may be taking a gamble by springing painful reforms on the public without warning, often after promising the exact opposite in the run-up to elections.

"People are not getting the policies they were expecting from their governments," Jorge Castaneda, a professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, told delegates.

"Maybe the policies they are getting are better but there is a credibility gap which with time could become a danger," he added.

Governments elected in Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil over the past year have unveiled reform programmes which went far beyond anything voters had bargained for.

"There is not a single government in Latin America which is not engaged in some sort of adjustment," Uruguay's former President Julio Maria Sanguinetti told the conference.

Negative economic growth, crippling debt-service charges and galloping inflation fuelled by yawning public sector deficits are forcing Latin American governments to bite the bullet at the start of an administration.

"At the beginning of the 1980s it was debatable whether you could carry out an adjustment," said Enrique Garcia Rodriguez, Bolivia's minister of planning and cordination.

"Nowadays there is a consensus. You cannot mess around with the economy," he said.

Bolivia, which in the mid-1980s grappled with annual inflation of 24,000 per cent, led the way among Latin Americas democracies in imposing sweeping economic reforms.

Inflation has fallen to double digits and the economy has started to grow again.

But Sanguinetti said, "Democracy does not automatically generate prosperity and this produces disillusionment."

Need for infrastructre

The need for investment in basic items such as roads, hospitals and agriculture in Latin America is phenomenal, according to the head of the IADB, Enrique Iglesias.

"You name it, in every field there is a gap which is very dramatic," he said.

Iglesias was speaking at a news conference to present the IADB's annual report.

"In the last decade we have lost about $17 billion of replacement investment," Iglesias said.

"The need for investment in infrastructure in Latin America is phenomenal and ranges from energy to transportation to agriculture to hospitals."

Iglesias said the IADB would be aiming to step up its lending for infrastructure.

He would also favour direct involvement of the bank in efforts to help Latin American countries reduce the burden of their debt.

He expected member nations to give an indication of what role they envisaged for the bank in helping cure the still festering debt crisis.

Iglesias said the bank, which finances development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, was already making an indirect contribution to the debt reduction strategy launched last year by U.S. Treasury Secretry Nicholas Brady.

"By supporting the balance of payments of member countries, we are making an indirect contribution to the debt reduction."

He added: "Can we go beyond that? I am not against it. On the contrary, I am receptive to initiatives."

U.S. accuses 35 countries of erecting unfair trade barriers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has accused 35 nations of erecting unfair trade barriers against U.S. products, the first step in a process that could lead to economic retaliation.

The action was the latest salvo in a more aggressive campaign on the part of the administration, prodded by Congress, to find ways to reduce America's huge $109 billion annual foreign trade deficit.

Japan led the list of offenders, with 19 pages of the 216-page report devoted to its barriers against the sale of U.S. products, a list of infractions that covered a range of American goods from semiconductors to soda ash.

Among other offenders judged to have erected the most barriers against American products were South Korea, Taiwan and China, all countries running large trade surpluses with the United States.

The 1990 edition of the "national trade estimate report on foreign trade barriers" was prepared by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills.

It is the first step in drawing up a "hit list" of priority countries the administration will target for intensive negotiations aimed at getting the offending barriers eliminated. That priority list is due April 30.

The requirement for a target list of countries, known as the "super 301" provision, was the most controversial and feared section of the 1988 omnibus trade act.

A year ago, 34 nations were cited in the initial trade barriers report and from that list three countries — Japan, Brazil and India — ended up on the priority list as targets for retaliation.

In the case of Japan, negotiations for opening markets for the sale of satellites, supercomputers and wood products succeeded Saturday. If the talks had failed, the administration has the power to impose higher tariffs on sales of Japanese products in America.

Officials expressed satisfaction with progress being made in talks with Brazil on various import bans, but they said no headway had been made with India over restrictions that country imposes on foreign investment and the closure of its insurance market to foreign companies.

Joshua Bolten, general counsel for the U.S. Trade Office, refused to speculate on how many countries could end up on the priority list this time around.

However, the administration is expected to once again pare the list to only a handful of countries, in part because of limited resources to conduct the talks. Members of Congress are lobbying to make sure Japan is included in the second round of talks, regardless of the outcome of the first series of negotiations.

"Until the long list of barriers that U.S. business faces in Japan is cut down substantially, the United States must keep up the pressure on Japan to open its market," Senator Max Baucus said in a statement.

The countries included in the 1990 barries report were Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, West Germany, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The two trading blocs were the 12-nation European Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

While this year's report in many ways resembled last year's list of barriers, Bolten said some progress had been made.

Among the success were agreements lowering barriers to sale of U.S. beef in South Korea, exports of copper to the European Community and sales of cellular telephones in Japan, he said.

U.S., Japan agree on satellite trade

WASHINGTON (R) — Japan has agreed to virtually all the terms sought by the United States towards opening its government market to American and other foreign-built satellites, the U.S. trade representatives office said Saturday.

The two sides negotiated into early Saturday and resolved major stumbling blocks to an agreement that would stave off possible retailiatory tariffs of 100 per cent on some Japanese exports to the United States.

A U.S. trade office official said, "We got just about everything we wanted."

The official said the two sides met all day Thursday and Friday and into early Saturday and would clear up remaining details Monday after Japanese negotiators consulted with their senior officials in Tokyo.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills cited Japan last May under a clause in the 1987 trade act for its closed markets in satellites, supercomputers and wood products.

Under the act, Japan had to open its markets in the three areas by June 16 or face possible punitive tariffs.

The Japanese had been reluctant to come to terms but shifted to a more conciliatory stance after a March 2-3 meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Bush stressed to Kaifu the urgency of U.S. concerns — the American trade deficit with Japan last year was $49 billion — and said Congress was threatening to pass anti-Japanese trade legislation if its markets were not quickly opened.

The U.S. trade official said Japanese negotiators seemed far more ready to strike a deal after the Bush-Kaifu meeting.

Last week an agreement was reached to open Japan's supercomputer market and American officials said progress was being made on opening the wood products market.

Saudi Arabia restricts imports of UAE goods

ABU DHABI (AP) — Saudi Arabia has allowed imports of products from eight factories in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) but continues to restrict those from 102 others, Finance Ministry officials said Saturday.

The UAE had also banned the imports from 15 Saudi factories, as the two countries streamline their trade on basis of a Gulf Cooperation Council pact, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The issue was triggered by a recent trade wrangle between the two countries when Saudi Arabia blocked the UAE re-export trade through its borders as of March 1, demanding certificates of origin to ascertain that the items were produced in the UAE.

The GCC, which also includes Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait, was born in 1981 in a quest for a common market.

Their unified economic agreements allows tariff-free movement of goods across each other's borders, but the Saudis were apparently concerned about the dumping of cheaply priced products from Southeast Asia on its markets.

The UAE-Saudi joint industrial committee held a two-day meeting recently in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to solve the wrangle, and the officials were commenting on the outcome.

A re-export trade worth $300 *million a year from the UAE to* Saudi Arabia had been crippled by the Saudi decision. The Saudis have however relaxed the ban following the intervention of the GCC general secretariat and until a final settlement is reached.

"The Saudi Arabian side has agreed to offer exemptions of customs duty for the product of eight UAE factories," said one of the officials. The eight were among a list of 13 the UAE side put up for exemption in accordance with the GCC unified economic agreement, he said.

"The Saudi side also agreed to gradually release the ban on UAE factories in accordance with a timetable and after inspections to ensure their commitment to the GCC standardisation and specifications measures and the GCC *unified economic agreement," he* said.

The UAE re-export trade to Saudi Arabia has more than doubled since 1985, estimated around 1.1 billion dirhams ($300 million) in 1989, forming 20 per cent of the total UAE re-exports mostly garments, gold, cement and manufacturing goods coming from Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Dubai has an active free trade zone.

Saudi Arabia was the biggest GCC market for the UAE re-exports and the second biggest world-wide after Iran which received 1.6 billion dirhams ($435 *million) worth of goods in 1989.*

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, April 1, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell			
			French franc	117.3	118.0
U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.0	424.5
Pound Sterling	1100.8	1007.4	Dutch guilder	350.5	352.6
Deutschmark	394.7	397.1	Swedish crown	109.3	110.0
Swiss franc	446.7	449.4	Italian lira (for 100)	53.6	53.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	190.6	191.7

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Kuwait to sell oil to India

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will sell India three million tonnes of crude oil and refined products worth a total of $447 million during fiscal 1990-91, Indian diplomats said Sunday. The diplomats said S.L. Khosla, chairman of the Indian Oil Corp., signed a contract with the Kuwait Petroleum Corp. during a visit here last Tuesday to import 1.5 million tonnes of crude and 1.5 million tonnes of kerosene and gas oil. India was also likely to buy an additional half a million tonnes of crude and 300,000 tonnes of refined products worth $113 million later in the year beginning April 1, they said. India purchased two million tonnes of crude and 1.8 million tonnes *of products worth $418 million in fiscal 1989-90.*

Iran gets mining equipment

NICOSIA (R) — Sweden will provide Iran with $60 million worth of mining machinery and equipment in a barter deal for Iranian minerals, Iran's heavy industry minister said in remarks published Sunday. Minister Hadi Nejad Husseiniyan, who returned to Tehran after a six-day visit to Sweden, told the national news agency IRNA the two countries were considering setting up factories to manufacture trucks, mining machinery, paper and glass. "The two have also agreed in principle on implementation of mining projects up to the ceiling of $500 million through barter *deals," IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the minister as* saying.

World Cup workers to strike

ROME (R) — Construction workers in Turin will stage a four-hour strike Tuesday to protest against inadequate safety on World Cup building sites and try to halt what a union leader called a programmed slaughter. "If drastic measures are not taken to combat the spate of deaths on construction sites further action will become inevitable," said a union statement issued in Rome Saturday. A 49-year-old worker was crushed to death on a site in Turin Friday — the 24th fatal victim since work began on projects for the World Cup soccer finals starting June 8. Union leader Antonio Pizzinato said Italian building sites lacked basic safety conditions and the need to rush work on World Cup projects running behind schedule increased the risks. "The statistics show that a progression of grave and mortal incidents has been programmed for next month," he said. "Today there are 10 times more deaths and serious accidents on World Cup sites than on *other sites. Its criminal not to act at once to put an end to this* slaughter."

Japan patent officers reprimanded

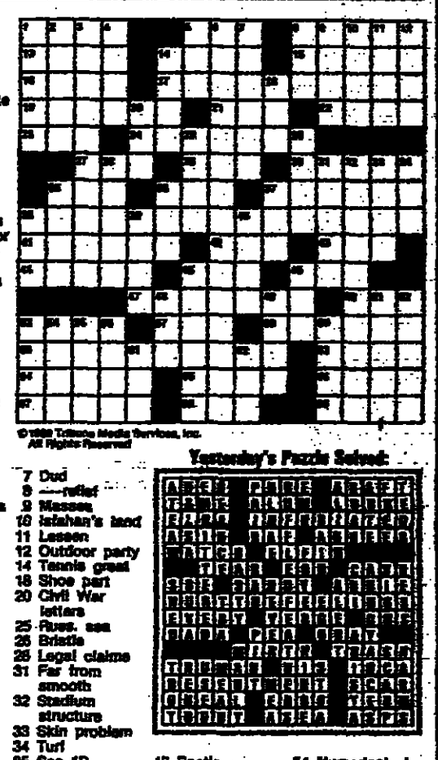
TOKYO (AP) — Japan's patent office has repsimanded 76 of its officers for leaking information to two private companies over the past two years, the office and local reports said Saturday. Kyodo News Service reported that the patent office took the action Friday, warning employees against leaking information related to patent registration. The personnel division of the patent office confirmed that action had been taken, but was unable to give details. Kyodo said the 76 people provided the two companies in Tokyo with information showing if any similar inventions had been patented. The companies dealt mainly in the fields of electronics, machineries and high technology. Payment for each leak ranged from 10,000 yen ($64) to 10,000 yen ($640): One of the employees received a total of 600,000 yen ($3,840), Kyodo said.

German held in embezzlement case

NICOSIA (AP) — A West German businessman wanted in his country on charges of embezzling 1.5 million Deutschmarks ($880,000) has been arrested in the south coast town of Limassol, police said Saturday. They told the semi-official Cyprus News Agency that Helmut Nolkes, 40, is the managing director of an offshore company in Cyprus. The agency did not give the company's name. A court has ordered Nolkes held in custody pending arrival of extradition-request documents from West Germany, police said. The agency gave no further details.

THE Daily Crossword

by Hank Harrington



ACROSS
1 Non compos mentis
5 Astern
8 Concise
13 Taj Mahal site
14 Baseball family name
15 Distinctive qualities
16 Active one
17 TV fare
19 Soak
21 Ring decision
22 Before high or deep
23 Jabber
24 Navy builders
27 — mode
29 A Charles
30 Maxwell and Lanchester
35 Gr. letter
36 Stockton's state: abbr.
37 Plaster finish
38 Infield
41 First game
42 Golf score
43 Text starter
44 Obsolete
45 Cunning
46 Hurricane area
47 Sample anew
50 Ante up
53 "Whatever — wants..."
57 Remunerate
58 Silky fabric
60 Rink users
63 Merit
64 Part of OSU
65 Author Leon
66 Arduous trip
67 Wine type
68 Clairvoyance
69 Totals

DOWN
1 "My Heart Belongs to —"
2 Gr. market
3 Annie Oakleys
4 Mountain lake
5 Mountain
6 Ends e.g.
7 Dud
8 —-relief
9 Messes
10 Isfahan's land
11 Lessen
12 Outdoor party
14 Tennis great
18 Shoe part
20 Civil War letters
25 Ness, sea
26 Bristle
28 Legal claims
31 Far from smooth
32 Stadium structure
33 Skin problem
34 Turf
35 See 1D
36 Auto
37 Letter opener
38 Jazz style
39 Mum
40 "— of Our Lives"
45 "The Thinker"
48 Poetic contraction
49 Ecol. org.
49 Pravda's cousin
51 Was mistaken
52 War machines
53 Tilt
54 Numerical prefix
55 Disulge secrets
58 Movie dog
59 "I — kick..."
61 Main element
62 Torn or Taylor

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PULIT

TINAF

CRIMET

GLAITH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CUBIC WINCE ENTITY AGENDA
Answer: Her promise to be on time carried a lot of this—"WAIT"

Papin puts Marseille back in touch

PARIS (R) — Jean-Pierre Papin grabbed his third hat-trick of the season Saturday to put Marseille back in touch with French league leaders Bordeaux and boost his side in advance of Wednesday's European Cup semifinal with Benfica.

Papin, who scored three in Marseilles last home game against Toulon two weeks ago, struck in the 16th, 81st and 88th minutes as his side stylishly dismissed Lille 4-1.

Marseilles English winger Chris Waddle had given the Mediterranean club the lead in the 14th minute. Lilles consolation goal was scored by Alain Fiard after 56 minutes.

The victory enabled Marseille to close the gap with Bordeaux to two points after the leaders were surprisingly held to a goalless draw at Mulhouse, who were bottom of the table.

Bordeaux were unusually unimaginative during the game and rarely looked as if they could get both points.

Marseille, who have high hopes of becoming the first French side to win the European Cup, have a game in hand over Bordeaux. The two clubs meet in Marseille in two weeks in what should prove the decisive match of the season.

Gerard Gili, the Marseille trainer, who rested Waddle after the first half for the Benfica match, was highly pleased with his sides performance. "Having Papin in this sort of form is good news for Wednesday," he said.

Last year's champions were the only club from the top six to win at the weekend. Third-placed Monaco drew 0-0 in Nantes, three places lower, on Friday night.

Sochaux were beaten 2-0 in Montpellier where on-form striker Eric Cantona scored both goals to take his tally for the week to four. He also scored twice in France's 3-1 win over Hungary in Budapest Wednesday.

Lyon, in fifth place, surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Cannes who had to play the second half with 10 men after Juan Herrero was sent off.

Paris St. Germain moved into contention for a place in next seasons UEFA Cup competition with a 3-1 win over Caen helped by two goals from Yugoslav striker Zlatko Vujovic.

Norris knocks out Mugabi

TAMPA, Florida (R) — American Terry Norris knocked out defending champion John Mugabi of Uganda in the first round Saturday to win the World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight title.

The seventh-ranked Norris, 22, whacked Mugabi with a thunderous left hook flush on the chin, sending the Ugandan staggering until he dropped to the canvas in the opening minute of the scheduled 12-round fight.

Mugabi, 30, making his first title defence since winning the title by stopping Rene Jacquot in the first round last July, took an eight count before the fight continued.

Mugabi tried to hold off the fast-charging Norris, but with just 13 seconds remaining in the round Norris caught Mugabi with a looping right hand, sending Mugabi down again.

A dazed Mugabi laid motionless on the mat for several minutes. He was counted out at two minutes and 47 seconds of the round.

Norris, who raised his record to 25-3 with 14 fights stopped, danced around the ring as his handlers joined in celebration.

It was Mugabi's third loss against 37 victories.

Mugabi was sluggish at the start, landing few punches. Mugabi landed a right hand jab early in the round and Norris countered with a short left hook that sent Mugabi reeling and then finally to the canvas.

With his mouthpiece in the centre of the ring, Mugabi stumbled to his feet at the count of eight. Norris landed several more punches before putting Mugabi away with an overhand right.

"I knew right from the start that I was much quicker than he was," Norris said. "And he seemed to be even slower than what I expected. But as soon as he threw that right hand I saw an opening and dropped him with my left."

"After that first knock down I knew that I had him because he had those glassy eyes. After the second knock down I knew that he wasn't going to get up."

Mugabi did not appear at a post-fight press conference.

His manager, Mickey Duff, sensed his fighter was in trouble from the start.

"I wanted John to concentrate on not being hit early in the fight," Duff said. "But he got counter punched and I knew he was in trouble. John was defenceless in that final onslaught."

Mugabi earned $150,000 and Norris $30,000.

Rockets defeats Timberwolves

HOUSTON (AP) — Akeem Olajuwon scored 24 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, becoming the second player in NBA history with 1,000 or more rebounds and 300 or more blocked shots in one season, as the Houston Rockets defeated the Minnesota Timberwolves 106-98 Saturday night.

Olajuwon had five blocks giving him 332 for the season and increased his rebounding total to 1,001. The only other player in NBA history to accomplish the feat since the league began recording blocked shots is former Los Angeles Laker star Kareem Abdul Jabbar, who did it twice during his career.

Otis Thorpe added 24 points, hitting 12 of 13 (.923) shots from the field for the second best field goal percentage in a game in Houston's franchise history. Buck Johnson also had 15 points for the Rockets, who closed within a half game of the Seattle Supersonics for the eighth playoff spot in the Western Conference.

In New York, Alex English scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half and Denver broke a seven-game road losing streak with a 118-115 victory over the New York Knicks.

The Nuggets, who fell into a four-team battle for two Western Conference playoff spots with five consecutive losses, stayed in seventh place alone with the win.

The Knicks, struggling to stay in the running for a homecourt advantage in the first round of the playoffs, lost for the ninth time in 10 games and for the eighth time in 11 home games.

Patrick Ewing had 37 points and 21 rebounds for the Knicks. Fat Lever scored 23 points and Walter Davis 18 for the Nuggets, including seven straight down the stretch.

In San Antonio, Terry Cummings scored 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead San Antonio past Milwaukee 107-100.

Cummings had nine points in the final period and Rod Strickland added seven. Their combined effort offset Jack Sikma's 16 points in the fourth quarter. Sikma led Milwaukee with 23 points.

San Antonio centre David Robisnon finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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ANOTHER GOLDEN OLDIE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 5 4
♡ 7
◇ K J 9 8 3 2
♣ K J 8

WEST
♠ A K 10 9 7 6 3
♡ J 3
◇ 10 4
♣ Q 10

EAST
♠ Q J 2
♡ 9 5
◇ A Q 7 5
♣ 7 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ Void
♡ A K Q 10 8 6 4 2
◇ 6
♣ A 9 5 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	3 ♠	4 ◇	4 ♠
6 ♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Bridge in the U.S.S.R. seems to be flourishing. At a recent tournament in Estonia, 128 pairs and 61 teams entered. This hand features brilliant defense from a match between two Latvian teams.

South's one club was artificial and forcing. The rest of the auction was natural.

Declarer ruffed the opening lead, then took five rounds of trumps, West discarding three spades while East parted with one card in each suit. Next came a diamond to the jack, and East won the ace! Declarer ruffed the spade return and, to learn more about the distribution, cashed his last trump. West sluffed a spade and East a club.

Declarer crossed to dummy with the king of clubs, noting West's ten, and cashed the king of diamonds. When both defenders followed with a low diamond, declarer thought he had a complete count of the hand. West had shown up with seven spades, and had followed four times in the red suits. Since he was "marked" with the queen of diamonds, he "had" to have started with only one club. So declarer confidently ran the jack of clubs. Down two.

Winning with the ace from an ace-queen combination in this position is not new to us. We first saw the play pulled off by Britain's Tony Priday some 40 years ago. However, then it was made to tempt declarer into repeating a finesse which was going to lose. The version where it is used to give a false count of the hand is a new twist.

Italian wins new European Super boxing

CAPO DORLANDO, Italy (R) — Italy's Mauro Galvano won the new European Super Middleweight boxing crown when he beat Mark Kaylor of Britain in the first title fight of the newly-created division early Sunday.

Galvano, 26, collapsed on the canvas in tears when his victory on points over the more experienced Briton, three years his senior, was announced at the end of the tight, gruelling 12-round bout in this Sicilian seaside resort.

Kaylor, a former British middleweight champion with 35 wins and eight defeats in a career spanning 10 years, attacked from the centre of the ring, while the Italian danced around him, darting in to stab punches.

Galvanos more mobile style allowed him to get the better of the earlier rounds, but Kaylor's dogged persistence saw him even the exchanges between rounds four and seven, in which he left his rival bleeding from the nose.

Grabb upsets Lendl, faces Chang in final

CHICAGO (R) — Jim Grabb, known more for his doubles than singles play, upset top-seed Ivan Lendl 6-3, 6-4 Saturday to advance to the finals of the $500,000 Chicago men's tennis tournament.

Grabb will face second-seed and fellow-American Michael Chang, who battled his way into the final with a 7-6 (8-6) 0-6 6-4 victory over Richey Reneberg.

Chang fought back from double set point to force a tiebreaker to win the first set. The French Open champion and world number nine totally dominated the second set.

In the deciding third set, Chang broke Reneberg in the first game, got broken in the sixth and broke back in the pivotal ninth, putting Reneberg away with a devastating passing shot down the line as Reneberg charged the net. Chang then held service to clinch the match.

The fifth seeded Grabb, 25, used a powerful serve and volley game to beat the world number one from Czechoslovakia.

"Jim played well. He served well. He volleyed well and he was swinging on my serve," Lendl said. "I had enough chances and I didn't take advantage. I should have broken in the first game. I could have broken three times in the second set and didn't. You don't take advantage, you don't win. He did."

"I thought I served my first service well," Grabb said. "But more important, my second serve was coming in pretty heavy. He wasn't able to step in and rip it like he did in the past."

Grabb, ranked 32nd in the world, is better known as a doubles specialist, who with Patrick McEnroe won the French Open last year and the ATP Masters. Last year Grabb was 27-20 in singles matches.

Grabb jumped out to an early 3-0 advantage, breaking Lendl in the second game. He froze Lendl with two passing shots down the line and then Lendl double faulted.

Up 5-2, Grabb led 40-15 but committed two unforced errors in trying to convert two set points. Pressing at deuce, Grabb's hard forehand volley went into the net and he mis-hit an attempted drop shot to lose the game.

Down love-40 in the last game of the first set, Lendl rallied, returning serve like a rocket past Grabb who then double faulted and had an unforced error taking the game to deuce. Lendl missed the service return giving Grabb the advantage. Grabb's fifth ace of the match for the first set winner left Lendl staring into space.

"There are people that are dealing with better physical skills and when they go to the bottom of their level, it's higher than when I go the bottom of mine," said Grabb. "When I tap into mine, I can beat anyone in the world."

Lendl held serve at love to start the second set and the crowd sensed a combeback. He closed out third game with two aces, his second and third of the match as they both held through the fifth game.

Up 3-2, Grabb faced two break points and rushed the net to put away to tough volley and followed up with a cross court winner. His fifth ace of the match put him level at three.

Grabb averted disaster again in the eighth game, staving off two more break points before saving it with his serve.

Riding this momentum, and with Lendl appearing disheartened, Grabb broke Lendl to go up 5-4 as Lendl missed two volleys at deuce.

"He was especially serving well," Lendl said. "A couple of break points at 4-3 and he made two great second serves. That's what matters today. It's not how you play at 40-love, it's how you play at 30-40."

Lendl could not handle Grabb's serve in the last game, missing the first two serves and getting aced on the next two as Grabb closed him out quickly.

"My reactions were slow. I didn't move too well," Lendl said. "I didn't feel comfortable. I felt comfortable with my new racquet (26 aces in his first two matches, four on Saturday), although it may take years to fine tune it."

Australia, U.S., Austria reach Davis Cup semis

BRISBANE (Agencies) — Wally Masur scored his second straight-sets victory against New Zealand Sunday to take Australia into the semifinals of the Davis Cup world group where they will meet either West Germany or Argentina.

Masur beat Brett Steven 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 to give the home side a winning 3-1 lead against their great sporting rivals.

Australia, twice Davis Cup champions in the 1980s, will be making their 16th semifinal appearance in the past 19 years.

Masur was too consistent for the 20-year-old New Zealander who was unable to recapture the form which saw him beat John Fitzgerald Friday after losing the first two sets 6-1, 6-0.

Steven gave the vocal New Zealand supporters at the Milton Club brief hope when he broke Masur in the third game of the opening set.

But Masur's experience saw him break back three games later and take control on the grass courts. He broke Steven to love in the 12th game of the first set to take it 7-5 before blasting his way through the second set in just 30 minutes.

Steven dropped the set 6-2 after serving a double fault on set point and his serve was pressured by Masur throughout the third.

In contrast the right-handed Masur, ranked 29 in the world compared with Steven's 429, breezed through his service games. He lost only one point in his first three games and wrapped up the match with plenty to spare.

In Prague, Czechoslovakia, Aaron Krickstein used consistent baseline play to defeat rising Czechoslovak star Petr Korda in four sets Sunday and clinch a Davis Cup semifinal spot for the United States.

Krickstein's 6-2, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 victory gave the U.S. squad a 3-1 lead over the Czechoslovaks in the best-of-five weekend series. The United States will take on Austria in a semifinal battle in September.

The United States lost in the semifinals to West Germany last year. Austria, which eliminated Italy this weekend, will be making its first appearance in the semifinals.

Brad Gilbert was to play Karel Novacek later Sunday in the final match of the series. Novacek was a late replacement for Milan Srejber, who injured his back in Saturday's doubles match.

Rick Leach and Jim Pugh won that doubles match 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 over Korda and Srejber to give the U.S. squad a 2-1 advantage. Krickstein had defeated Srejber in a five-set struggle Friday and Korda crushed Gilbert 6-2, 6-3, 6-3.

Krickstein's steady baseline game proved too much for Korda, who became an overnight hero Friday with his demolition of Gilbert.

Korda showed touches of brilliance with gentle drop shots and sharp volleys, but Krickstein was able to keep the ball in play until the Czechoslovak made mistakes.

Korda, ranked 26th worldwide, was playing singles in the series only because Davis Cup veteran Miloslav Mecir dropped off the team because of back pain.

In Vienna, Austria will play the United States in the Davis Cup semifinals after wrapping up a 5-0 victory over Italy in the quarter-final round Sunday.

It will be Australia's first-ever semifinal appearance in Davis Cup play.

In Sunday's single matches, Horst Skoff beat Claudio Pistolesi 6-4, 6-1 and Thomas Muster subdued Diego Nargiso 6-3, 6-2. Under prior agreement, the two matches were played as two-out-three competitions because Austria already held an insurmountable 3-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

Webb returns to inspire United

LONDON (R) — England midfielder Neil Webb returned to the fray for Manchester United Saturday after missing seven months with a ruptured achilles tendon — and it was as if he had never been away.

Webb put on a cultured, composed performance which inspired United to a 3-0 home victory over Coventry, setting up the second of Mark Hughes's two goals with a superb cross and generally imposing his class on the match.

Now the 26-year-old player is keen to help United reach the F.A. Cup final in their semifinal against Second Division Oldham next Sunday.

"It's been a long, hard struggle and it was great to pull on a United jersey again," Webb said. "I enjoyed every minute of it and I'm ready for selection for the cup match."

It was his first full game with the side since he sustained the injury playing for England against Sweden last September, though he came on as a substitute last week.

"I was a bit jaded last Saturday after coming on as a substitute at Southampton, and again for the reserves last Tuesday," he said.

"But today there were no problems with my leg. I didn't feel as tired as I did in those last two games. The fans really lifted me. The atmosphere was electric. Now everyone at Old Trafford is in high spirits for the cup semi after two league wins on the trot."

Those two victories have lifted United clear of the relegation zone with which they have been flirting for several weeks with Webb and England captain Bryan Robson both missing through injury.

They are five points clear of the bottom four, with three to go down to the Second Division.

Duke wins basketball semis

DENVER (AP) — Phil Henderson scored 28 points and Duke beat Arkansas 97-83 Saturday in the semifinals of College Basketball's championship series.

Arkansas normally has an all-out running game, thus the Razorback's rallying cry: "forty minutes of hell."

This time, though, those 40 minutes took a costlier toll on Arkansas. Both Razorback centres played the entire second half in foul trouble. Starter Mario Credit fouled out with 6:22 to play and substitute Oliver Miller went out shortly thereafter, giving Duke a huge size advantage.

When Credit picked up his fifth foul against Christian Laettner, the score was tied at 77. Laettner, who had four fouls himself, hit the foul shot, and Duke led 78-77. The Blue Devils (29-8) outscored Arkansas 14-6 from that point for an 89-81 lead.

Now, they move into Monday night's National Collegiate Athletic Association title game against the University of Nevada-Las Vegas with a chance to end a long string of failures. Duke has been to the final four eight times, including the last three seasons and four of the past five. Never, though, have the Blue Devils won a national title.

"But I think we're doing things the right way," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski had said. This time, they did.

With Credit and Miller on the Arkansas bench, the Blue Devils went to their own strong front line of Laettner and Alaa Abdelnaby. Laettner had 19 points and Abdelnaby 20.

Todd Day had 27 points for Arkansas (30-5), but was scoreless in the last 8:44, and Lenzie Howell had 18. The only other player in double figures was Lee Mayberry with 12. Miller finished with three and Credit had just five.

Twice, Arkansas trained by 11 points and came back, the final time with 16:40 left in the game after Duke scored the first eight points of the second half. Arkansas ran off nine straight points to pull within two, and finally tied the score at 60 on day's 3-pointer with 12:46 to play.

Howell's 3-pointer for Arkansas with 6:58 to play tied the score at 77, but the Blue Devils then outscored the Razorbacks 20-6 to end the game. Abdelnaby scored six of Duke's points in a row as the Blue Devils took an 84-81 lead, then Henderson hit seven in a row for Duke, giving the Blue Devils a 98-83 lead.

Duke led by 11 points with just 4:40 gone after scroring 16 of the game's first 21 points — including six by Abdelnaby — but Arkansas battled back to trail by only 46-43 at halftime.

Arkansas's first-half recovery wasn't pretty, but it was effective. And the Razorbacks did it with Miller and Credit saddled with three fouls.

Arkansas' feared full-court press did not force a Duke turnover until there were nearly eight minutes gone in the game. But by the end of the first half, it had forced eight turnovers and was beginning to tire the Duke players, particularly point guard Bobby Hurley, who was ill during the game.

Still trailing 25-15, Arkansas outscored Duke 10-4 to pull within 29-25 with 6:07 left on a basket by Credit. The Razorbacks actually pulled even at 43 on a 25-foot 3-pointer by reserve guard Ernie Murray with 55 seconds to play.

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Violence and looting in London greets new tax

LONDON (R) — A rally against a new and unpopular "poll tax" has turned into a violent riot in the heart of London.

More than 130 people were injured and 340 arrested after a mass rally against the tax turned into a riot during which buildings were set on fire, shops ransacked and cars burnt in the capital's West End theatre and restaurant district.

It was the worst violence in central London in decades. A building in Trafalgar Square was set alight and thick smoke rose over the area littered with broken glass and debris.

Theatres cancelled shows and restaurants closed as the disturbances spread. People heading for the theatre and tourists caught by the violence ran for cover.

The poll tax, which came into effect in England and Wales Sunday and replaces local property taxes with a levy on all adults of voting age, has created a political uproar and has sent Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's popularity plummeting.

It is one of the main reasons for the government's low rating in opinion polls which threaten Thatcher with the loss of the next general election in 1992. Conservatives trail 23 points behind opposition Labour in the latest poll.

More than 40,000 people gathered in Trafalgar Square to demonstrate against the tax, chanting "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, out, out, out" and "can't pay, won't pay."

Saturday night's riot was sparked when some demonstrators tried to reach 10 Downing Street, Thatcher's official residence, according to Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner David Meynell. He said some protesters carried black anarchist flags.

Meynell said around 3,000 "fairly hard-core violence people" started an attack on police with masonry, wooden staves and beer bottles.

Riot police with shields and batons and police on horseback charged the agitators, who fled back into the crowds in Trafalgar Square. The police have launched an inquiry into the riot that followed.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock, whose party strongly opposes the poll tax, was swift to dissociate his party from the violence Sunday, saying it "was criminal and the people who caused it must be treated as criminals."

Just before Saturday's clashes Thatcher attacked "Marxist agitators and militants" for organising "mob violence" during poll tax protests which have flared across the country. At some protests demonstrators have burnt effigies of Thatcher.

Arson, robbery, grievous bodily harm and other serious assaults, widespread criminal damage, looting and theft were all reported during the disorder in London, said detective chief superintendant Roy Ramm.

Steven Nally, one of the demonstration's organisers, said the march was hijacked by a small group of unruly protestors who provoked the police. But he accused the police of over-reacting. "They used a water cannon to put out a match," he said.

Home Secretary David Waddington called the night of violence, one of London's worst, unacceptable.

The government's overall unpopularity is also due to economically damaging inflation, painfully high interest rates and widely criticised changes to the national health service

On Saturday, Thatcher, her 15-year stewardship of the Conservatives in quesion as never before, said there was "no vacancy" for leader. Speaking to party officials in an English spa town, she said: "I haven't come to Cheltenham to retire."

Former Conservative Party chairman Norman Tebbit sparked a heated debate over Thatcher's grip on power when he said last week he would be a candidate to succeed her if she stepped down before the next general election.

U.S. troops injured in Honduran attack

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S. troops in Honduras were put on high alert after at least six American soldiers were wounded, two seriously, in a suspected leftist guerrilla ambush near the capital, U.S. officials said.

Six or seven soldiers were wounded when at least three men, believed to be leftist guerrillas, used high-powered weapons in an ambush of a bus carrying 28 passengers 20 kilometres north of Tegucigalpa Saturday, U.S. embassy spokesman Terry Kneebone said.

The bus was carrying the U.S. soldiers from a pleasure trip at the beach on the Atlantic coast, U.S. officials said.

"It was a surprise attack. The U.S. forces did not return fire. They kept going to get out of the area as quickly as possible," U.S. Southern Command spokesman Captain Art Haubold said in Panama City.

The two most seriously wounded soldiers were taken to a civilian hospital in Tegucigalpa for surgery.

One of the soldiers had been shot in the head and the other wounded in the abdomen, a doctor at the hospital said. The other injured soldiers were treated and released, he said.

A Tegucigalpa radio station, Radio America, said an unidentified caller said the leftist group Morazanista Patriotic Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the attack.

The little-known rebel group has been blamed for a number of attacks during the past year, including a grenade explosion in July that wounded several U.S. soldiers.

About 1,200 U.S. troops are stationed at the U.S. base at Palmerola, north of the capital. About 900 additional U.S. troops are in Honduras for joint air, sea and land military exercises that began last week.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Tamil rebel chief emerges from hiding

COLOMBO (R) — Velupillai Prabhakaran, once Sri Lanka's most wanted Tamil guerrilla leader, said Sunday that his men would fight the Colombo government again if their demands were not met. "We want our people to live independently and honourably. We want justice," Prabhakaran said after emerging from two-and-a-half years in hiding to talk to local reporters. The 36-year-old leader of the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said they had been talking to President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government for the past year. "A settlement of our problems is likely soon due to Premadasa's courageous and new approach to the Tamil problem," Prabhakaran, who was dressed in military fatigues, said.

Kohl would love to head all-Germany

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Sunday he would love to be the chancellor of a united Germany. "Without presuming election outcomes, this is now a possibility at least. It really would crown it all," he said in a radio interview. Kohl, who will be 60 Tuesday, said the process of unification had not slowed since East Germany's first free elections two weeks ago. He said he thought a new East German government would be formed soon after the new conservative-dominated parliament meets on April 5. "Then we'll work at top speed to unveil a package to East and West Germans early in May which contains the foundations of monetary and social union and an economic community," he added.

Cambodians found in boat off Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Australian customs and immigration officials said Sunday they had intercepted a 20 metres boat in the Indian Ocean off the northwest coast of Australia with 118 persons aboard claiming to have left Cambodia three weeks ago. Australian Customs Service Public Affairs Director Brian Flanagan confirmed there were 70 men, 30 women and 18 children, ranging in age from five months to 78 years, aboard the boat. He said it was spotted by a coastwatch customs service plane late Saturday and was intercepted by customs officials at the entrance to King Sound, about 2,000 kilometres north of Perth in Western Australia state.

AIDS vaccine 'is not a magic cure'

PARIS (R) — The Frenchman who discovered the killer AIDS virus says a vaccine could be ready in a few years but he doubts if it will be the magic answer the world is waiting for. Luc Montagnier believes AIDS can best be contained by a combination of prevention and treatment of patients already infected with the virus. "Vaccine is a magic word. We musn't delude ourselves...it's very important to have a policy for preventing infection but also to prevent the illness in those already infected," he said. In an interview last week in his office at the Pasteur Institute, Montagnier, a cheerful, soft-spoken man, said scientists were close to producing a vaccine against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). "The scientific community almost has the formula," he said. "But we still have to test it on chimpanzees so we won't have a human vaccine for four or five years."

Nepal's king reshuffles cabinet

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's King Birendra Sunday dismissed nine government ministers who politicians said had opposed a crackdown on dissent in the Himalayan kingdom. A royal palace communique said Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha had recommended the changes in the governing council of ministers. Shrestha's government has vowed to thwart a campaign of demonstrations and strikes launched on Feb. 18 by banned political parties against Nepal's partyless system of elected councils or panchayats. Those dismissed included Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, who offered his resignation last week.

U.K. lifts exclusion zone around Falklands

LONDON (R) — Britain has lifted its military exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands in the latest sign of improving relations with Argentina after the 1982 war over the remote South Atlantic territory.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said the zone, banning all Argentine ships and aircraft from within 150 miles of the islands, was replaced by arrangements agreed by London and Buenos Aires in Madrid in February, when full diplomatic relations were restored.

Argentina, which claims sovereignty over the islands it calls the Malvinas, had pressed for the removal of the exclusion zone which it saw as a vestige of the Falklands War.

Argentina and Britain broke formal ties after Argentine troops overran the Falklands in April 1982. A British task force recovered the islands 10 weeks later after nearly 1,000 servicemen from both sides had been killed in action.

The two countries agreed in Madrid to restore diplomatic relations, resume air services and improve trade links. They have since reopened their embassies and appointed ambassadors, who have yet to take up their posts.

The British spokesman said the exclusion zone would be replaced by a new arrangement called the interim reciprocal information and consulation system.

Under the agreement, a hotline would be established between British forces and the Argentine military.

Ships wanting to come closer than 50 miles, and aircraft closer than 70 miles, to the islands should give 48 hours notice. Combat units would need a special agreement.

The two countries would also give each other 25 days notice of military manoeuvres in certain areas.

Britain has a full garrison on the Falklands and has assured the 2,000 islanders that it has no intention of cutting its military strength as a concession to Argentina.

The Foreign Office said Britain had been heartened by an improvement in trade since January. Britain exported £2 million ($3.2 million) worth of goods to Argentina in January compared with £300,000 ($480,000) in January 1989.

Contras begin disarming in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (Agencies) — Some Nicaraguan contra rebels based in Honduras have begun surrendering their arms to the Honduran military, a presidential aide said Saturday.

The announcement did not affect the thousands of rebels who have left the camps in Honduras and crossed into Nicaragua. Terms for their dismantling is on the agenda at a Central American sumit starting Monday.

"At this moment the armed forces are receiving the arms," Gilberto Goldstein, personal secretary to President Rafael Callejas, told Reuters.

"They have begun to hand over their arms in Honduran territory," he told local radio station HRN. He did not say when the process began.

Goldstein said there were roughly 5,000 contras in camps in Honduras. Many of the estimated 12,000 rebels once based at the camps here are believed to have returned to Nicaragua armed after opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro won February elections.

Goldstein said he did not know how many rebels had turned in their weapons but said there were some reports that about 80 of them had surrendered their arms at Yamales, near the Nicaraguan border.

The U.S.-backed rebels in Honduras agreed on March 23 to lay down their arms by April 20, five days before Chamorros scheduled inauguration.

The five Central American presidents are preparing to begin a two-day summit in Nicaragua Monday which is to include talks on contra disbanding.

"The demobilisation is a fact. There is now no doubt that the resistance will give up its arms," Goldstein said in a telephone interview.

The Honduran government has called on the United Nations to send troops to aid with the dismantling of the contras but currently Honduran Armed Forces are receiving the weapons.

Also Saturday, the contra high command sent a letter to Callejas reiterating its intention to disband under the plan agreed on March 23.

"The resistance is taking all possible steps to make this commitments a reality," said the letter, signed by contra military chief Israel Galeano. It added that the rebels were eager to work with Chamorro's transition team in Nicaragua.

In Managua, the Sandinista newspaper Barricada said Saturday that some 1,000 contra rebels who have infiltrated from neighbouring Honduras are preparing for an offensive in northern Nicaragua.

Meanwhile the National Assembly passed a law protecting the property titles to land owned by 120,000 peasant farmers.

Barricada reported that at least 1,000 contras have moved to Jinotega province, 190 kilometres north of Managua and along the Honduran border.

China cordons off Tiananmen Square

PEKING (R) — China Sunday cordoned off most of Tiananmen Square, the centre of a pro-democracy campaign crushed by the army last June, in the latest sign of tightened security ahead of key anniversaries of unrest.

Paramilitary police ringed most of the huge square in central Peking, standing 30 paces apart and warning away strolles and passersby.

Security men with walkie-talkies kept a watchful eye around the square while helmeted police with submachine guns were posted along sidestreets nearby. Paramilitary police with assault rifles stood on guard south of the square late Saturday night but they were gone by Sunday morning.

Several foreigners have received faxes announcing plans purportedly by Peking residents to stroll through the square on April 1 and April 5 in silent protest against the crushing of last year's demonstrations. The faxes are believed to have come from overseas dissident groups.

Soldiers backed by tanks smashed their way into the city last June 4, killing hundreds, possibly thousands of people, and crushing the democracy campaign.

Those protests were triggered by the death of reform Communist leader Hu Yaobang on April 15, 1989.

April 5 is the "Qingming" festival, the day Chinese traditionally sweep the graves of their ancestors.

The Peking daily said Sunday that groups organised to tidy up grave sites needed official permission and it was strictly forbidden to burn incense or "conduct other superstitious practices" at cemeteries on April 5.

Students and workers said they were warned to stay away from the square Sunday or be responsible for whatever happened. Other students said classmates had been required to patrol the campus to guard against any disturbances.

Armed police Sunday patrolled the university district in small convoys of motorcycles with sidecars while plainclothes security men patrolled on foot.

Primary school students wearing yellow caps and bright red scarves marched through Tiananmen Square as onlookers gawked from behind lines of police. Other schoolchildren stood in ranks in the centre of the square beside the monument to the people's heroes, carrying flags and banging drums.

Teachers accompanying them said these were rehearsals for the Asian Games to be held in Peking in September. One teacher said the rehearsals had been hastily arranged in the last three days.

Police cars were parked around the edges of Tiananmen Square and in roads leading to it.

Mugabe declared winner in elections

HARARE (R) — Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's leader since independence in 1980, was officially declared the winner Sunday of last week's presidential elections.

He swept home in a two-man presidential race, taking well over four votes to every one for his rival Edgar Tekere, leader of the breakaway Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM), registrar-general Tobaiwa Mudede told a news conference. Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party also won parallel general elections.

Tekere's party, founded less than a year ago, failed to make the big breakthrough it hoped for, though it did better than many forecast by taking some 20 per cent of the national vote.

ZUM complained of biased coverage in the official media and of intimidation by the ruling party against its candidates and supporters. One of its leading candidates was shot and seriously wounded just before the poll.

Despite losing the election, Tekere is expected to argue that he had succeeded in his main aim of denying Mugabe a popular mandate for the creation of a one-party state, a political ideal which was seriously questioned by many Zimbabweans watching events in Eastern Europe.

Mugabe, who frequently promised to legislate for one-party rule only with overwhelming popular support, had called on voters to make sure opposition parties met their "final death."

The poll results showed that Mugabe won 2,026,976 votes to Tekere's 413,840. ZANU-PF won 116 of 120 seats in voting for a new parliament against three for opposition parties. Voting was postponed in one constituency.

A total of 2,587,204 votes, or about 54 per cent of the registered electorate, were cast in the presidential poll and officials said figures in the general election were similar. There were 146,388 spoilt presidential ballot papers.

The turnout was well below the 2.9 million recorded in Zimbabwe's 1985 elections. Officially the voters' roll has 4.8 million electors, though privately officials say many of these may be dead or counted twice.

Tekere's party retained his old seat of Mutare Central, in the eastern part of the country, by a narrow margin and won a second seat in the southeastern towns.

A small opposition party, ZANU-NDONGA of exiled politician Ndabaningi Sithole, hung on to its lone seat in the eastern constituency of Chipinge.

Mugabe's party, which merged with the PF-ZAPU party of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo last year, did best in rural areas where ZUM candidates failed to make an impact.

But ZUM fared better in towns and cities, winning 30 per cent of the vote against some of Mugabe's top ministers in what was seen as a protest vote against rising unemployment and evidence of corruption among his senior colleagues.

Aquino fails to budge congress on land reform appointment

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino conferred Sunday with congressinal leaders but failed to overcome opposition to her controversial agrarian reform secretary.

The meeting, which included leaders of the pro-Aquino Struggle of the Democratic Filipino Party (LDP), was called to overcome opposition to confirming former Rep. Florencio Abad as secretary of agrarian reform.

Although the party is pro-Aquino, members on the congressional commission on appointments have blocked Abad's appointment because they claim he is biased against landlords and industrial development.

"The president reaffirmed her confidence in Abad and we of the LDP reaffirmed our own positions," House Speaker Ramon Mitra told reporters after the meeting. "We have supported the president 100 per cent and we will continue to support her. Our opposition to the confirmation of Abad is because we want her to succeed."

Abad was appointed Dec. 31 in a cabinet shakeup that followed a bloody coup attempt earlier that month. Opposition surfaced after he tried unsuccessfully to block the government's lease of land in Cavite province to Japan's Marubeni Corp. for an industrial site.

Abad, a member of pro-administration Liberal Party, said the land should have been redistributed to peasants under agrarian reform. Critics claimed Abad was opposed to industrial development.

The issue has been seen as a test of Mrs. Aquino's political influence since opposition to Abad has been strongest in a party which was organised by her closest stalwarts, including her influential younger brother, Rep. Jose Cojuangco.

Rebels to intensify attacks

Meanwhile Communist rebels said Sunday they would intensify their attacks on American targets in the Philippines and warned Japan for the first time to stop aiding Manila in its anti-insurgency war.

"We will definitely intensify our attacks on U.S. imperialism as it escalates its interventions in our country. Our central targets will be the colonial U.S. troops and all U.S. personnel involved in counter-insurgency," New People's Army (NPA) chief Romulo Kintanar said.

"These people have no right to remain even for a second in our country," he declared.

The United States operates two major military bases and has about 12,000 servicemen stationed in the country.

NPA death squads have killed eight American nationals

NATO increasingly believes nuclear arms can be reduced

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — NATO nations increasingly believe they can sharply reduce their arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons in response to the dramatic improvement in East-West relations, diplomats and analysts say.

Officials of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have made no decisions to slash battlefield nuclear arms in Europe but are considered likely to do so in the future.

"That's the inevitable conclusion," said a NATO diplomat, who demanded anonymity.

Another diplomat, also insisiting on anonymity, said, "it's quite obvious the situation has changed so much. I would support going down where we can and we could certainly do it in the nuclear field."

Jane Sharp, senior researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden, said the political sentiment for short-range nuclear systems appeared to be waning.

"You don't want something targeted at Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel," she said, a reference to the Polish union leader and the new president of Czechoslovakia.

The issue is certain to be raised by NATO defence ministers when they meet in early May in western Canada to discuss the alliance's nuclear strategy.

Last fall in Portugal, they asked aides to take a close look at the future role of nuclear arms in the West's stockpile. They requested a study, with recommendations, on what should happen to the weapons in an era of reduced tensions.

At that time, some had predicted a draft document would be drawn up this year with concrete proposals in 1991. But a NATO official said the aides were likely to speed up the work because "events are moving faster than before."

Even before the project is done, officials privately predict the alliances will trim its tactical arsenal of nuclear artillery and short-range missiles in Europe.

One NATO official said that "a consensus is emerging that there is not much point any more in retaining" nuclear artillery shells.

Moreover, officials see dwindling support for a U.S. plan to develop a new, more powerful generation of short-range nuclear missiles. The new weapon would replace the aging Lance surface-to-surface missile.

"If (the project) ain't dead, it's looking remarkably like it," said John Cross, deputy director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"The likelihood of the (new missile) being deployed in Europe must be so low to almost require a microscope to see it," he said.

But a U.S. officials, demanding anonymity, argued, "as long as there is instability in the Soviet Union, we would like to preserve that option. It strengthens our hand in negotiations to have that option."

The U.S. Defence Department has asked Congress for $112 million to continue developing the Lance missile in fiscal year 1991, which begins on Oct. 1.

The Lance was introduced in 1972, and military analysts say it will become obsolete in 1995. Its maximum range is about 120 kilometres.

Its replacement would be designed to hit a target more than 400 kilometres away, just under the limits of the 1987 intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty.

According to Western estimates, the Soviet Union has 1,450 short-range nuclear missile launchers in Europe. NATO has 88 Lance launchers, most based in West Germany. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has promised to pull out 500 short-range nuclear weapons from Europe.

At a summit last May, U.S. President George Bush and other NATO leaders agreed to delay until 1992 a decision on deploying the next generation Lance missile.

The decision was part of a summit compromise that linked reductions in conventional, or non-nuclear, weapons to the start of negotiations on trimming short-range nuclear forces.

Germany had demanded immediate negotiations with the Warsaw Pact on slashing the weapons. But U.S. and British officials insisted efforts first should be focused on the Vienna negotiations to reduce conventional arms.

Negotiators for NATO and the seven Warsaw Pact nations want to wrap up a treaty by year's end on cutting artillery, main battle tanks, armoured troops carriers, combat aircraft and helicopters, and troops in Europe.

The alliance contends it needs nuclear weapons to offset the Soviet Union's enormous superiority in conventional arms.

One official said there would be no agreement among the allies to cut their nuclear force "as long as the Vienna negotiations ... have still not produced any results."

Eventual negotiations with the Kremlin on cutting nuclear weapons would likely be limited to short-range missiles. NATO could pare its artillery stockpile on its own.

Despite talk of reductions, officials insist the West would have to maintain some nuclear weapons as part of its defence strategy. "No one believes it is in our interest to do away with nuclear weapons (entirely)," said a diplomat.

Global weather
(major world cities)

	MIN. °C	MIN. °F	MAX. °C	MAX. °F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	06	43	15	59	Clear
ATHENS	08	46	16	61	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	19	66	27	81	Clear
BANGKOK	27	81	34	93	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	10	50	24	75	Clear
CAIRO	12	54	24	75	Cloudy
CHICAGO	04	39	08	45	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	43	16	61	Clear
FRANKFURT	05	41	18	64	Clear
GENEVA	02	36	14	57	Clear
HONG KONG	20	68	26	79	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	06	43	13	55	Cloudy
LONDON	08	46	19	66	Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	52	20	68	Clear
MADRID	03	37	19	66	Rain
MECCA	26	79	32	90	Cloudy
MONTREAL	01	34	-05	41	Cloudy
MOSCOW	01	34	05	41	Clear
NEW DELHI	15	59	28	82	Cloudy
NEW YORK	04	39	09	48	Rain
PARIS	10	50	21	70	Clear
ROME	08	37	22	72	Clear
SYDNEY	X	X	X	X	X
TOKYO	11	52	23	73	Cloudy
VIENNA	05	41	17	63	Clear

X - Indicates missing information.

COLUMN

Fathers should stop being so greedy

SHARJAH (R) — A Gulf Arab ruler has told fathers not to be so greedy in demanding big dowries for their daughters. Dowry demands of sometimes more than $100,000 and expensive wedding parties, are prompting some men to spurn local girls and marry less expensive wives from Egypt or India. "The problem is that there are some greedy fathers," said Sheikh Sultan Ibn Mohammad Al Qassimi, ruler of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Islamic Law requires a dowry to be paid to the father of a bride. "I have contacted several fathers and offered to personally attend (their daughter's) wedding provided it was not too expensive," Sheikh Sultan said. "But they all refused," he said. "They all said: 'Why start with me'?" The sheikh suggested mass weddings might be a way to cut costs. "I personally would attend and television would screen them live," he said. He also urged old men to stop marrying young foreign women, saying this had created some social problems.

Man jumps, runs, rides and swims across Switzerland

GENEVA (R) — A Swiss mountain guide climbed, jumped, ran, rode and swam his way across Switzerland from the Matterhorn to Geneva at the weekend in a bid to raise money for the handicapped. Using 13 different non-motorised forms of transport from horse-back riding to hang-gliding, Jean Troillet completed the arduous journey in just 31 hours. On a map, Geneva is about 125 kilometres from the Matterhorn but nearly twice that by following the road and Lake Geneva. Troillet started on the icy shoulders of the Matterhorn in southern Switzerland Friday morning and ended by swimming the last two kilometres underwater to Geneva in a wetsuit. On the journey he mountain-climbed, jogged, bicycled, alpine skied, surf skied, cross-country skied, rafted, rowed, sailed and windsurfed.

'Women's combat ability unknown'

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Navy's top-ranking female officer said Tuesday that no one knows how well women could perform in combat and she doubted that the United States was ready to test them. Rear Admiral Roberta Hazard told the Senate Defence Appropriations Subcommittee that women had the skills to fly combat planes, operate ships and perform other combat jobs. "They absolutely perform wonderfully well, including aboard ship," she said. "But that isn't the issue." She said the question of whether women could handle warfare or an enviornment of sustained combat has not been answered. "It's the sustained combat environment which you're not going to replicate under any set of circumstances other than combat itself," she said. But Hazard said, "Right now I don't think that the public or the navy, and a great many women also... are ready to demonstrate that." The issue of putting women in combat was revived when a number of them became involved in fighting during the U.S. invasion of Panama in December.

Murders in New York set record in 1989

NEW YORK (R) — Murders in New York City hit an all- time high in 1989, with 1990 set to eclipse that mark if current trends contiue. Police Commissioner Lee Brown said Friday that 1,905 people were slain in the city last year, a half a percentage point increase from 1988, which also set a record. Killings for the first two months of this year up 20 per cent over the same period in 1989. Officials said more than two-thirds of the murders in Upper Manhattan in 1989 involved drug gangs in shootouts. Robberies also increased in 1989, rising almost eight per cent to 93,337 for the highest street crime rate in the nation. Burglary and thefts fell, however, except for car theft which increased 11.6 per cent. Brown called the murder rate a "public health problem" and said federal health authorities should treat it as an epidemic. Overall, the crime rate in the biggest U.S. city fell by almost one per cent, with the biggest drop in larceny, which fell by 6.7 per cent. Rape fell by 4.6 per cent.